China
TOURISM

FEBRUARY 1994
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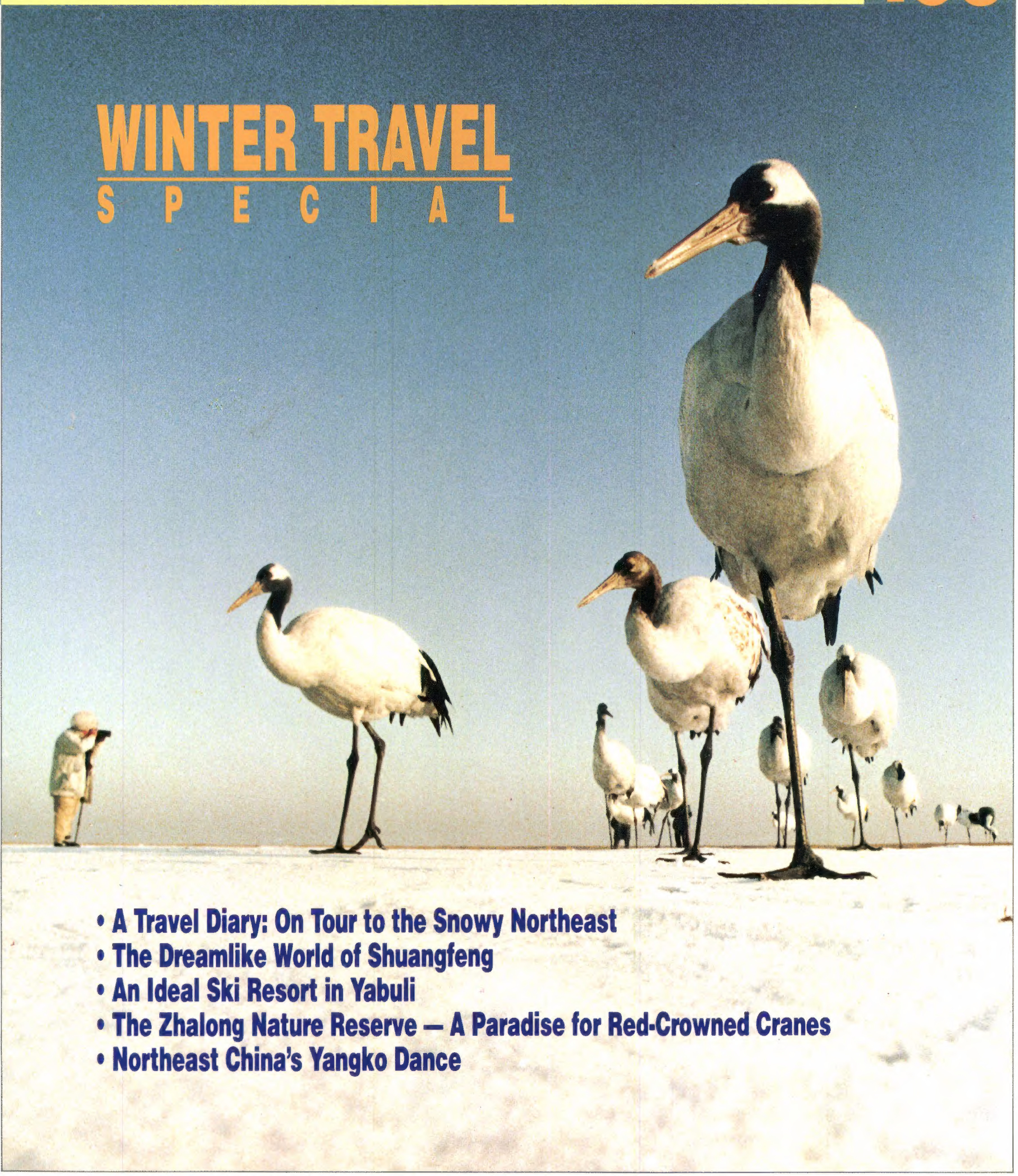
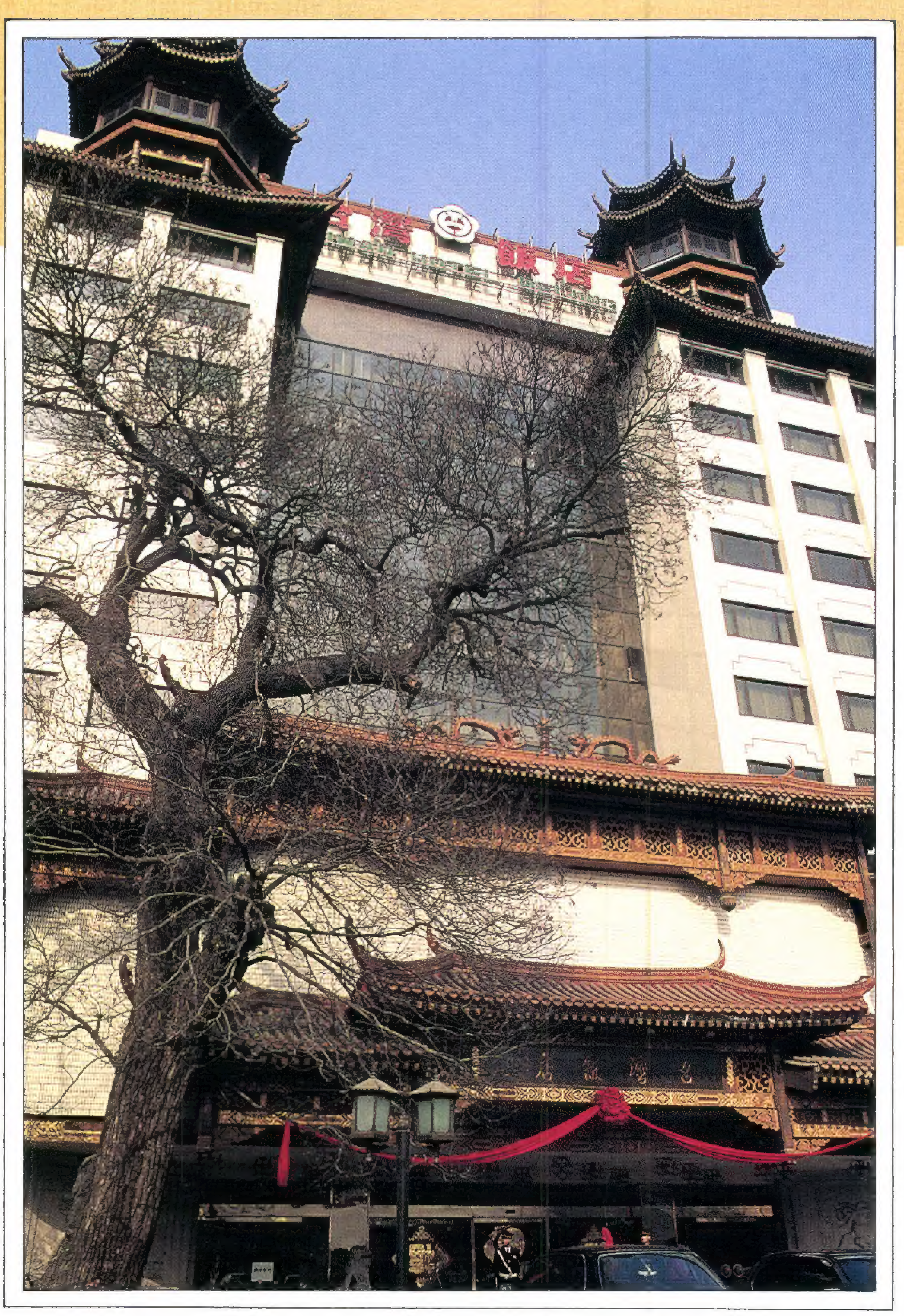


WINTER TRAVEL
SPECIAL

- A Travel Diary: On Tour to the Snowy Northeast
- The Dreamlike World of Shuangfeng
- An Ideal Ski Resort in Yabuli
- The Zhalong Nature Reserve — A Paradise for Red-Crowned Cranes
- Northeast China's Yangko Dance

與紫禁城爲鄰的台灣飯店
Taiwan Hotel beside the Forbidden City



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—EDITORIAL—

The Magic of a Snowy Landscape

Although living a relatively warm climate like Hong Kong — where snow and bitter cold temperatures are unheard of — is pleasant enough, still many people feel they are missing out on something when wintertime arrives each year. The allure and romance of watching snow fall from your window, or the exhilarating feeling of downhill skiing are no more than fantasies for countless people here and elsewhere.

For this reason, in recent years Northeast China has become an increasingly popular destination for travellers coming from southern China, Southeast Asia and other warm regions. With reasonable prices and a host of winter activities, China's most northern provinces of Heilongjiang and Jilin are perhaps at their most charming at this time of year. Thus, in this issue we explore some of the most enjoyable places one can go to get a taste of a "real" winter.

We start out with an article by a reporter who went on a train tour, together with 300 Hong Kong residents, through the winter wonderland of Northeast China. What better way to enjoy scenery at any time of year than from a train window, and for many in the group the tour was full of "firsts": the first time to see snow, the first time to try skiing and tobogganing, and the first time to be really, really cold! We also pay a visit to the place with the heaviest snowfall in the entire country — a tiny logging town called Shuangfeng, whose residents must dig out tunnels in order to go outside. If skiing is a sport you enjoy, our article on Yabuli will introduce you to the country's finest ski resort. And if you are a bird lover, check out our article on the Zhalong Nature Reserve, home to a rare and beautiful species of bird called the red-crowned crane.

Or perhaps you've seen enough snow and ice in your lifetime, and your idea of a perfect winter holiday includes sun, swimming and lush tropical forests. For a warm winter getaway there is no better place in China than Hainan Island, therefore in this issue we introduce you to a seldom-visited mountain in the centre of the island, which is also home to the Li and Miao minorities. And, as usual, we offer our readers a number of interesting articles on art, religion, culture and much, much more.

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Front Cover: Red-crowned cranes at the Zhalong Nature Reserve *(by Wang Fuchun)*

WINTER TRAVEL SPECIAL

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Photos & Article by Shi Bao Xiu

Last year our reporter went on a train tour with 300 Hong Kong residents to China's most northeastern provinces of Jilin and Heilongjiang. For many of them it was the first time to ever experience the beauty of winter scenery, ski and play in the snow.

The Dreamlike World of Shuangfeng 16

Article by Xiang Yang & Bao Xiu

Shuangfeng is a remote logging village in Heilongjiang that is so small it cannot be found on most maps. Far away from the hustle and bustle of cities and covered in deep snow for many months each year, it is truly a winter wonderland.

An Ideal Ski Resort in Yabuli 20

Photos by Xiang Yang/Text by Zhang Cheng

Although skiing in China is a relatively new sport, the ski resort at Yabuli in Heilongjiang is a shining example of this industry's vast potential. Snow coverage there lasts for a full six months out of the year and is of excellent quality, giving Yabuli the perfect conditions for skiing, tobogganing and other winter activities.

The Zhalong Nature Reserve — A Paradise for Red-Crowned Cranes

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Text by Xin Lin

Zhalong in Heilongjiang's city of Qiqihar is home to a very rare species of bird called the red-crowned crane. In the wild the cranes fly south for the winter, but at Zhalong the birds are treated so well they stay all year round!

Northeast China's Yangko Dance

30

Text by Tian Fu

The Yangko Dance is a traditional form of entertainment usually seen only in China's northeastern provinces. Although people do the Yangko Dance at any time of year, in winter dancing on the snow-covered ground is Yangko at its best.

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

Climbing Wuzhi Mountain — Hainan's Highest Peak

34

Article by Liu Lang & Hua Nian

Few people think of mountain-climbing when they think of Hainan, tending to associate it only with beaches and swaying palm trees. But right in the centre of the island there is a mountain region with fantastic scenery, as well as countless minority villages where the Li and Miao ethnic groups live.

Life Along the Chong'an River — Miao and Ge Rural Communities in Guizhou

42

Photos by Er Dongqiang/Article By Li Jie

One of the least explored parts of China must be Guizhou Province, home to a large number of minorities including the Miao and Ge. Many of their villages are located along the gentle Chong'an River, where modern life is only just beginning to make itself felt.

China TOURISM

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NOTICE OF PRICE ADJUSTMENT

We announce with regret that due to sky-rocketing prices in the past year, the great increase in our management costs has forced us to adjust the price of our magazine. As of our January 1994 issue, the new per unit price of *China Tourism* is HK$38.

This page: *Seeing the rime in Jilin was a highlight of the tour (by Xu Xuezhe).* **Right:** *An old steam locomotive departs Jilin City (by Wang Fuchun).*

A Travel Diary:
On Tour to the Snowy Northeast

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU

QJ 6964
當好先行

EDITOR'S NOTE: During the lunar New Year holiday in 1993 our reporter went, together with 300 tourists from Hong Kong, on a "Train Tour to the Snowy Northeast" organized by the China Railexpress Travel Service. For many people in the group, it was the first time in their lives they had ever experienced such cold weather. Since it never snows in Hong Kong, coming into physical contact with frost, ice and snow was something they would remember for the rest of their lives.

January 23, New Year's Day (first day of the first lunar month)

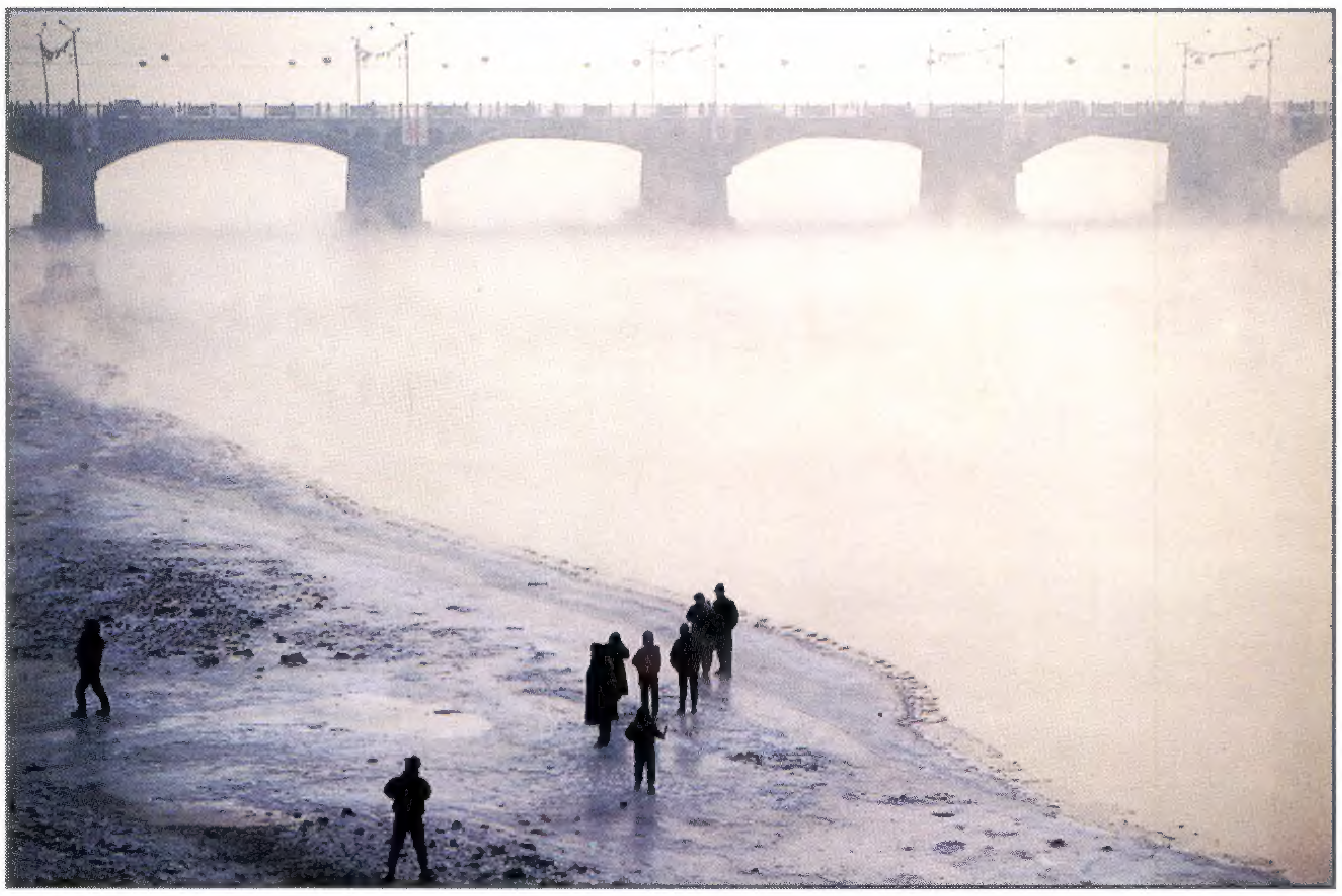
It seemed that Heaven had purposely arranged beautiful weather for the New Year holiday. Early in the morning, when the sun was just rising out of the horizon over the sea, our plane took off from Hong Kong International Airport and soared into the cloudless amber-like sky. As we flew over the Nanling Mountains, I looked out of the window and saw that in the morning light the mountain ranges down below were as crystal clear.

Shortly after we flew over the Yangtse River, the land below began to change. The sun had by now tinged the vast plains of the Yellow and Huaihe river basins pink. When we landed in Beijing, the sky was also cloudless and a brilliant shade of blue. However, the cold air as we stepped out of the aircraft gave us a shock and I quickly put on my down jacket. All the other Hong Kong travellers were also busy wrapping themselves up in hats and gloves.

January 24

We went to a temple fair yesterday afternoon and this morning visited the Great Wall at Badaling. Northerners have a very different way of spending the New Year holidays (also called Spring Festival) than people in Hong Kong. There are more traditional folk activities, more

In China's three northeastern provinces one can still see working steam locomotives, which are museum exhibits elsewhere (by Wang Fuchun).



Tourists on the train as it speeds northward

Middle: *Condensation from the Songhua River is carried to the banks by the wind.*
Bottom: *Tourists from Hong Kong meet at the Beijing Railway Station for their train journey to the northeast (by Ren Chenming).*

This good-natured vendor's candied hawthorn berries make a perfect phoenix tail.

People in Jilin welcome visitors with a Yangko Dance.

merry-making here in the north. Wherever I went I was accompanied by the sound of firecrackers. At the foot of the Great Wall people bought firecrackers then ran up to the top of the wall to set them off.

Mr. Yang, a 60-year-old member of the tour, joined a group of children on a beacon tower and sent off a firework called the "Sky Drilling Monkey", which shot into the sky like a missile. Only when he was finished with his fun did he realize that he had burnt a big hole in his brand-new down jacket!

At 4:00 in the afternoon I and 300 people from Hong Kong, all members of the "North China Scenery Tour Group", boarded a special tourist train in Beijing. The train compartments were equipped with cotton quilts in addition to a warm heating system. Dinner began to be served at 7:30 and all the passengers took turns to have their meals in the dining carriage. It was already pitch dark when the train pulled through Shanhaiguan Pass towards the east end of the Great Wall.

January 25

After waking up the next morning, I checked with the conductor and was told that the train had left Liaoning and entered Jilin Province. Outside, on a vast expanse of black soil, melted snow which had immediately frozen solid formed patches of thick ice that shone in the bright sunlight. Yellow smoke slowly curled up from the chimneys of low houses, whose doors were decorated with bright red New Year couplets, pictures of door gods and the character "fu" (fortune).

The train turned east from Changchun towards the city of Jilin and entered an area of hills and forests. Though the snow was not thick, it evenly carpeted the ground. A little passenger of about three years old put his face against the train window and looked at the snow with surprise, mumbling the word snow over and over in Cantonese.

Fog descended as we approached Jilin City. It hung a dozen metres above the ground, shrouding the snow-covered villages. The forests high up on the mountain, however, were clearly visible. The land here was covered with footprints of both people and dogs, which led off into the distance. Apparently, it had been quite a while since the last snow.

At 10:30 in the morning the train chugged into Jilin City, where it was much colder than in Beijing. The tourists in their thick winter coats looked like a massive group of bears. They followed the yellow flag of the tour guide out of the train station. About a hundred local people had gathered outside, doing the Yangko Dance and beating gongs and drums to welcome the southern visitors. We got on a bus to have lunch in a restaurant, then were taken straight to the Qingshan Ski Resort some 30 kilometres outside the city proper.

The ski resort was located on a mountain by the famous Songhua Lake, and a cable car linked the foot of the mountain with the summit. As we looked up at the imposing mountain, we all must have had the same thought: How were people like us, who had rarely even seen snow before, expected to ski? Even before we went up the mountain to actually try our hand at skiing, we had already falling down several times.

As it was some distance from the parking lot to the ski lodge and equipment rental area, there were plenty of horse-drawn carts and sleds waiting to take customers uphill, for a fee of course: three yuan per person. Interestingly, there were also smaller carts pulled by dogs or

Riding on a horse-drawn sled is great fun.

Middle: *Roasted sweet potatos eaten in temperatures of -20°C help keep one warm.*
Bottom: *Hong Kong visitors, who had never seen snow before, were filled with excitement at the sight of snow.*

sheep to bring people back downhill. Since the carts and sleighs almost outnumbered the tourists, as soon as a tourist got out of a bus he was surrounded by four or five touts.

Five of us went up the mountain on a sled pulled by a black horse, with one brave girl sitting on horseback. On the way, several snow carts overtook us, filled with young people huddled together who were shouting and laughing.

In less than ten minutes, we found ourselves at the ski resort. First we rented ski equipment. We put on our ski boots and snow caps and held our ski poles as if we were real pros. We then went by cart to the top of a gentle beginner's slope. There, as soon as we got our boots into the skis, half of us fell over. We struggled up, but before we could stand upright we fell again, with many of us ending up spreadeagled on the ground. The other half who were fortunate enough to start skiing fell one after another before they had gone 100 metres. Some fell backwards and twirled around like toy tops, while others fell forward squarely kissing the snow.

There were a few who managed to ski further down the trail, but then they had trouble keeping their centre of gravity and invariably fell, their legs raised in the air with the skis still stuck to their feet. Then, as if using their backs as skis, they slid and spun helplessly towards the foot of the slope. Still worse, they banged into others on the way, causing several people to fall and collide with yet more people.

A much steeper slope was used for the slightly easier sport of tobogganing. This was done on a long wooden board which carried two people down the slope, gaining speed and

The Songhua River in Harbin is an ideal place for winter sports.

This brave swimmer marches towards the Songhua River, ready to conquer the icy water.

rocking violently all the way. Amidst shouts and screams, the riders were often thrown off and went tumbling into the snow. Only a very few of the more skilful ones stayed on the toboggan and reached the end of the slope, where, taking advantage of the inertia, they continued on to a gentler slope.

In the surrounding woods, the thick snow lay untouched, deep and soft. Young men and women in a snowball fight chased each other and very soon turned into live "snowmen" with their hair, eyebrows and clothes covered in white. In the world of ice and snow, everyone, men and women, old and young, seemed to have been injected with youthfulness and enjoyed themselves immensely. In the evening, lying cosily in a bathtub filled with hot water to sooth my battered body, I felt an unusual delight despite the aches and pains.

January 26

The next day a caravan of tourist buses pulled up by the Songhua River. People eagerly got out and dashed to the river bank to take a look at what are called in Chinese "silver flowers". This phenomenon occurs when the river water evaporates due to warm currents, which is then carried by the wind over to the river banks. When the evaporated water hits the tree branches it freezes into sparkling ice crystals similar to frost, called rime.

Every winter at the height of the "blossoming of the silver tree flowers", when trees along the river are fully laden with rime, the city holds a Rime Festival, which brings visitors from far and wide to come and appreciate this spectacle of nature. To all the visitors from Hong Kong, the sight of trees white with rime far surpassed the colourful display of blossoming flowers so commonly seen in the south. They gathered under the trees, admiring them and taking pictures to show their friends back home.

When we returned to the train at two o'clock in the afternoon, I saw the conductor pasting up the window frames with adhesive tape, for we were entering an even colder area further north. I was told it would be 20°C below zero in Harbin. The train pushed ahead in the cold night and I felt the temperature in the train slowly dropping. Ice on the windows began to thicken, and at 9:30 that evening the train pulled in to Harbin and we checked into the Swan Hotel.

January 27

At 9:30 the next morning we were standing on the elevated embankment of the Songhua River, the water in front of us frozen solid. Like a fleet of ships that had run aground, ferries and leisure boats were docked all along the shore. The people here seemed much more lively than in other places we had been. From the banks to the middle of the river, tourists clambered over the ice in their dazzling, colourful down jackets. There were many activities that one could participate in on this huge natural skating rink. There were horse-drawn sleighs, carts pulled by sheep or dogs, and people "ice surfing", propelled forward by the wind. The carts — toboggans made of wooden boards and fixed with two long runners — were the most popular. People sat on the carts and sped along the river, travelling almost as fast as a train.

A wintertime swimming pool, about the size of a basketball court, had been cut out of the ice in the middle of the river. Water in the pool sent out steam in the cold air. Every ten minutes, workers with long-handled scraping boards removed the layer of thin ice that kept forming

On the way up the mountain in the funicular train everyone looks like ski pros, but once they step foot on the ski trail they seem more like professional wrestlers!

Middle: *Unfortunately, the wind was not strong enough for "ice surfing" on this day.*
Bottom: *It was -30°C in the Ice Sculpture Garden; even our video-cameras had to take shelter from the cold.*

on the water's surface. The wind was strong and bitingly cold, and though the sun was up and bright red, people could not help shivering. The tourists from Hong Kong were all fully equipped with down jackets, fox fur hats, thick woollen scarves, face masks and ear muffs, revealing nothing except their eyes.

A swimming event began, with the first group of participants four women in their fifties. Dressed in ordinary swimming suits, they walked once briskly round the pool. Next they started doing warm-up exercises, then stood on the platform and jumped into the icy water. The next swimmer was a man of more than 70 years of age. He stood on the platform and sang Peking Opera at the top of his voice before diving into the water. He did not come ashore until he had done a few laps.

A young man looking on could not resist the temptation. He changed into his swimming trunks and jumped into the water. The water, covered with floating bits and pieces of broken ice, was so cold that he began to have cramps in his legs. Fortunately, the old man and the four women swimmers were able to help him out of the water. With much difficulty, he climbed ashore and went into the locker room, shivering all the way.

In the afternoon, we went to Sun Island to see some of the city's famous snow sculptures. Later that evening we rode to Zhaolin Park, the location of the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival. On view were a huge variety of ice sculptures in the shape of pavilions, towers, corridors, pagodas, bridges, figures, animals and flowers. Illustrative notes on the themes and craftsmen were available at each site.

Inside the sculptures, electric cables and lights were installed so that in the darkness, when the lights were turned on, the whole range of ice carvings sparkled with colour, looking like a crystal palace. Night in Harbin was cold enough, but standing amidst all those ice sculptures at night made one really feel the biting air. For us visitors from Hong Kong, however, it was a rare and enjoyable experience.

This beacon tower within the Korean pine forest now serves as a tourist tower, where a panoramic view of the forest is available.

Part of the Snow Sculpture Garden on Sun Island

January 28

This morning the China Railexpress Travel Service presented all the Hong Kong tourists who had come on the "Train Tour to the Snowy Northeast" with a small gift: a box wrapped in red velvet. Inside were the "four treasures of the northeast": a slice of pilose antler (the immature antler of a stag, used in Chinese medicine), a slice of ginseng, a piece of marten fur (an animal similar to a weasel) and a sheaf of Wula sedge, a local plant used for making snowshoes, matresses and other daily necessities.

Instead of getting on the train to return to Beijing in the afternoon, I decided to go with a smaller group of young people to explore the forests in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains. On the way, the sun cast its rays on the undulating land blanketed with snow, which grew thicker as we moved further north. The train entered the forests of the Lesser Hinggan Mountains and as evening fell, we arrived at Langxiang and checked into the Forestry Bureau Guesthouse.

January 29

After breakfast, a bus from the Langxiang Forestry Bureau took us into the primitive Korean pine forests, which are under special protection deep in the hills. We gasped in amazement at the sight of so many huge, sturdy pines spread across the hill slopes. Led by our lady tour guide, we ploughed through the thick snow towards the hilltop. But after walking a mere hundred metres or so, several people in the group were already huffing and puffing. They had to sit on tree stumps for a while to catch their breath before they were able to help each other to the hilltop.

An observation tower stood on the hilltop, towering over the Korean pine and birch forests. We all climbed up the tower and got a panoramic view of the sea of trees. Everyone was overwhelmed with the sense of space and natural grandeur. Without the shielding of trees, the wind on the tower seemed particularly harsh and cold. Soon

Top: *Roasting wild game in the snowy forest*
Middle: *These ladies from Hong Kong enthusiastically study the art of dumpling-making.*

Tour guides bid farewell to their Hong Kong visitors as we depart for home (by Ren Chenming).

we were all gripped by a bitter chill that penetrated every layer of clothing. Some fellow travellers wanted to have a picture taken with the trees as backdrop, only to find that the cameras were all out of commission due to the cold temperatures. They held them to their chests to warm them up, and then took a quick shot.

By the time we came down the hill it was lunch time. An old man whose job was to keep watch of the Korean pine forest met us at the foot of the hill, holding a basin of fresh meat in his hands and an iron fork under one of his arms. Before long he had a fire lit and called out to us: "Come and have some roast venison!"

Being very hungry after climbing the hill and the tower, we dashed to the fire and immediately started roasting and eating the meat. I never would have expected deer meat to be so tender and tasty. To be honest, I thought it was ten times better than pork or beef.

Contented with a hearty meal, we got in our bus and drove towards a ski slope nearby. The snow here was particularly thick and soft, so it was great fun sliding down the long slope on a sled. It was not until sunset that we shook the snow from our clothes and reluctantly departed for our guesthouse in Taoshan.

January 30

This morning we went hunting in the mountains. Though there were only two hunting rifles and 50 bullets to share among a group of 15 people, we were very excited and in high spirits. We took a bus to the Ice Lake Hunting Ground and began our trek into the woods. We forged ahead several hundred metres in the knee-deep snow and discovered the tracks of a roe deer, a small, graceful deer common to the woodlands of Europe and Asia.

The footprints led into thick woods where the snow was even deeper and harder to walk in, therefore we had to give up our pursuit. When we reached a secluded spot, we placed two pebbles up in a tree and took turns practising how to shoot. Suddenly, just after firing our very last bullet, a large roe deer ran out of the woods, across the highway and into the thickness of the trees beyond. We stared at it helplessly, holding onto our empty rifles and marvelling at the great joke nature had played on us!

We had dinner that night at the home of a forest worker. The man and his wife, both approaching 60 years of age, had been enjoying the Spring Festival with their children and grandchildren. The wife and our tour guide demonstrated how to make dumplings and we all joined in. Despite their patient guidance, our dumplings all ended up in the strangest shapes; most either had holes in the dough or no filling. Fortunately, once they were boiled they all tasted wonderful.

After the dumplings, a number of local delicacies including a type of tree fungus *(Hydnun erinaceus)*, mushrooms, fern, pheasant, venison and a host of other forest specialties whose names we did not know were served. Thrilled, we took several pictures of the dishes before we started eating.

The old couple raised their glasses and wished us a happy Spring Festival here in this secluded forest so far away from home. Our faces turned red after just a few cups of sorghum wine and we all enjoyed the meal immensely. This turned out to be one of the best meals I had on the entire trip, and it left us all with lasting memories of our journey to the snowy northwest.

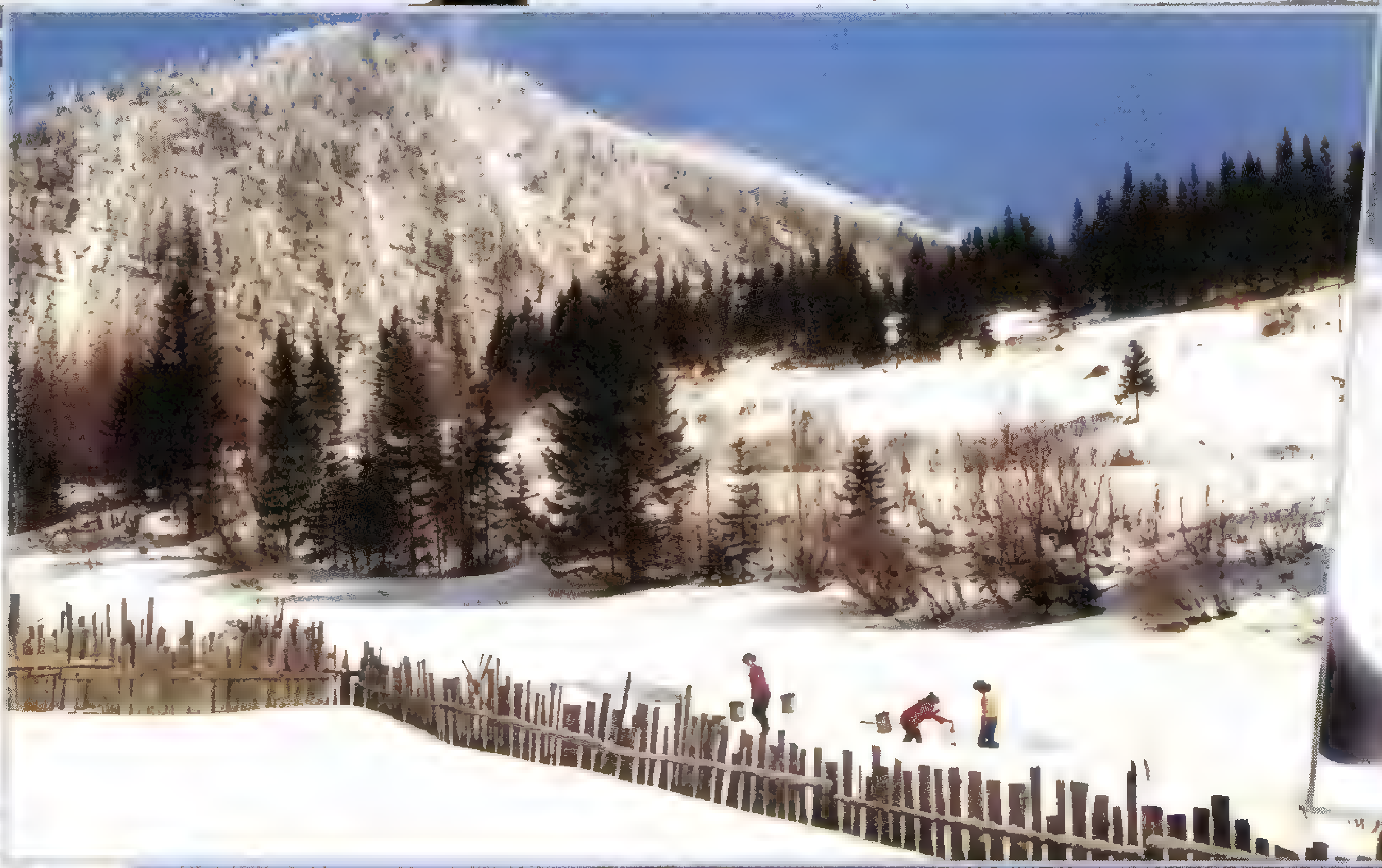
Translated by Huang Youyi

On the mini-train everything is proportionately small except the passengers, who seem larger than life.

Mini-trains like this one provide special transport for tourists from Langxiang deep into the forests of the Lesser Hinggan Mountains. During the puppet regime of the Manchukuo from the 1930s to the 1940s, these trains were used to bring timber out of the forests.

The Dreamlike World of Shuangfeng

ARTICLE BY XIANG YANG & BAO XIU



Large: *The deep snow does not start melting until May (by Wang Xinlin).*

Right: *Children growing up in this land of snow are quite used to the cold weather (by Ma Yixing).*

Left: *Shuangfeng, far away from the busy cities, is completely free of troublesome metropolitan noises. It is particularly attractive in winter when everything is covered in thick snow (by Ma Yixing).*

In Shuangfeng this small train is the sole means of transportation for sending lumber out and bringing daily necessities in (by Ma Yixing).

The white snow turns red by the light of fireworks during the Lantern Festival (by Wang Xinlin).

To reach Shuangfeng, we first boarded a train at Harbin, the capital city of Heilongjiang, and went through Yabuli to Mudanjiang, where we changed trains for the neighbouring town of Changting. At Changting we changed to a smaller train, and after travelling for six hours through a vast expanse of dense, snow-covered forests, we finally arrived at the Shuangfeng Forestry Centre, a place so small it cannot be found on most maps.

As we stepped out of the tiny train and set foot on the platform, we fell into the knee-deep snow with a plunk. We looked around and saw hills on all four sides — even the villages inhabited by the local lumberjacks were buried in deep snow. It was only through the wisps of smoke rising up from the village chimneys that we could tell which shapes were dwellings and which were just mounds of snow. We walked into the main village along a tunnel that had been carved out of the snow, which then branched off into many small tunnels, each leading to the doorway of a house.

▲*Shuangfeng is inhabited by lumberjacks and their families, with winter being the busiest season for logging (by Zhang Xiaoyu).*

▶*Snow is cleared away from the roads soon after it falls. Otherwise, the snow would be too deep for the elderly and small children to walk in (by Wang Fuchun).*

In China there is a novel called *Tracks in the Snowy Forest,* which tells the true story of a detachment of the Liberation Army that fought against the bandits in this area in the early '50s. The small train the two sides fought for possession of is located here, and is still the main means of transportation today. The type of log cabins which housed the hunters described in the novel also still remain today.

The Shuangfeng Forestry Centre, under the jurisdiction of Hailin County, is hidden deep in the Zhangguangcai Mountain Range. Affected by cold currents from the North Pole and the forest climate, the area is not only the first place to get snow every year, but also has the highest snowfall in all of China.

The Heaviest Snowfall in China

Snow in Shuangfeng is heavy indeed, with the greatest amount falling in March. During snowstorms people walking in the streets cannot see more than five metres in front of them. A night of continuous snowfall can bring snow more than a metre deep, and the next morning people are hardly able to push open their doors. Houses at the edge of the village become entirely buried in snow, with residents having to dig tunnels in the snow when they go out.

Shuangfeng is particularly beautiful in the morning after it snows. Early risers emerge from their "snow fortresses" to commence the battle to carve out a path in front of their gates. Soon the whole village turns out to clear the main road, in order to let their children go to school. The children throw snowballs as they walk through the deep snow tunnels. After that, the robust lumberjacks start out for work, all wearing fur coats, caps and gloves. Some ride on homemade skis and others pull wooden sleds as they march off into the deep mountain forest.

Winter is the busiest season for cutting down trees in the forest regions. In summer the rain makes the ground in the forests muddy, therefore felling and transporting trees is difficult. However in winter, when the ground is covered in snow and the trees are dry, tree-cutting is much easier. In addition, tugging logs along the slippery snow saves a lot of energy and time.

Winter is also the best season for hunting. Wild animals such as roe deer, hare and boar leave distinct tracks in the snow the minute they leave their lairs. Moreover, the leaves of trees fall off in winter, and with no luxuriant foliage to obstruct their view, hunters find it easier to spot their target. Many visitors who come to Shuangfeng in winter have the chance to enjoy a meal of wild game.

Previously unknown to the outside world, Shuangfeng was first discovered by a group of photographers, who went one year into the deep snowy forest to look for an ideal place to take pictures of winter scenes. Once their captivating photographs were published in newspapers and magazines, people began coming here to study and enjoy this pristine environment.

During the Spring Festival holidays, or after the heavy snow in March of each year, photographers and tourists from China and Hong Kong — wearing thick padded clothes or heavy fur coats and carrying cameras and dry rations — come to Shuangfeng like delegations of pilgrims.

Actually, there are many other equally beautiful snowscapes in the several hundred kilometres of forest in the Zhangguangcai Mountain Range. For instance, the Erlanghe Forestry Centre is also frequented by photographers. The snow there is the same thickness as in Shuangfeng, and the mountain folk are very hospitable towards visitors. However, as far as transport facilities are concerned, Shuangfeng is the best, at least for now.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

Melted snow quickly freezes into "ice-popsicles" for children (by Wang Fuchun).

Two local necessities: straw shoes for walking in the snow, and **kaoliang** *liquor to take on logging and hunting trips (by Wang Fuchun)*

An Ideal Ski Resort in Yabuli

PHOTOS BY LIU XIANGYANG TEXT BY ZHANG CHENG

Large: *Great Guokui Mountain, where the Qingyun Ski Resort in Yabuli is located, is part of the Wanda Mountain Range. This aerial view shows the rugged landscape of northern China.*

Top: *Only well-trained athletes dare attempt this long, steep run.*

Middle: *Tourists hire their ski equipment and then take a chair-lift to the beginners' slopes.*

Bottom: *Every winter quite a number of skiing competitions are held at the ski resort in Yabuli.*

The Qingyun Ski Resort in Yabuli is located on the northern slopes of Great Guokui Mountain, in Shangzhi City in the south of Heilongjiang Province. As the mountains here are mostly over 1,400 metres above sea level, and lie at a northern latitude, they are covered with snow for six months out of the year. In addition, the depth of snow cover is usually several metres thick and the quality of the snow is ideal for skiing, therefore in 1980 a ski resort was set up here. At first three downhill trails and three cross-country trails were opened to the public, and later a 2,500-metre chair-lift was installed.

It begins to snow on Great Guokui Mountain in September of every year. As the snow deepens, increasing numbers of ski teams arrive for their training. When winter is at its most severe, Yabuli is bustling with activity. The chair-lift is packed with professional athletes, all wearing ski-helmets and colourful outfits. The chair-lift is kept constantly running, bringing the athletes to the top in just 10 minutes.

The hotels here can accommodate more than 3,000 athletes and nearly 1,000 other visitors. Facilities include a modern training gymnasium, a telecommunications and news centre and the so-called Antarctic Building. This building is a training base constructed by the Antarctic Exploration Committee of China.

Because the terrain here is covered with ice and snow and the low temperatures of 30–40 °C below zero are quite similar to conditions in the Antarctic Circle, every winter teams of scientists come here to be trained in field work, open-air camping and cooking, skiing and life-saving techniques. This training is meant to prepare them for the

A European-style building at the Qingyun Ski Resort (by Gao Shan)

Every member of the Antarctic Exploration Team must be trained and tested at Yabuli before going on a real expedition.

Snow on the slopes can be as much as two metres deep.

actual conditions of the Antarctic Circle, where they will one day go to work. That is why one often sees them camping on the tops of mountains at the mercy of the bitter cold wind, where they pass the long nights sleeping in down quilts on the bare snow.

In recent years Qingyun has developed tourism beyond its skiing services. The resort has attracted tens of thousands of tourists from the United States, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, Great Britain, Macau, Holland and Switzerland, with the greatest number of visitors from Hong Kong.

Every year during Spring Festival — from the first to the 15th day of the first lunar month — the resort is at its busiest, with many tourists from Hong Kong coming to learn how to ski or to go sledding. Some people come to the top of the hill by chair-lift but dare not ski down. Instead they stroll the snowy ground and enjoy the sights of the snow-clad primitive forest. Others prefer to tour the area in horse-drawn sleighs.

The forests of Yabuli are teeming with wild animals such as boar, roe deer, rabbits, pheasants and squirrels, therefore hunting facilities are also available. Visitors able to brave the deep snow and difficult treks can spend an exciting day in the great outdoors, and can usually bag at least one or two animals. Or, for those who do not wish to kill game but merely practise their shooting, Yabuli has also opened a shooting range with a wide variety of guns and targets to choose from.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

A downhill ski trail on the mountain

High-jumping is both dangerous and exciting (by Wang Xinlin).

Westerners come here mainly to go hunting.

The Zhalong Nature Reserve — A Paradise for Red-Crowned Cranes

TEXT BY XIN LIN

These red-crowned cranes stay in Zhalong all through the winter. Why should they take the trouble to fly tens of thousands of kilometres in search of spring, when all their needs are provided for by their human caretakers? (by Wang Fuchun)

▶ *Bird experts both from home and abroad often come here to study the reserve's many species of birds (by Liu Xiangyang).*

▼ *Raising young is a joint effort (by Liu Xiangyang).*

◀ *At the beginning of each winter, wild cranes must make their long journey south (by Su Changde).*

▼ *Viewed from the air, flying red-crowned cranes look like billowing white ribbons (by Wang Xinlin).*

▲ *Tourists visit the home of the red-crowned cranes (by Liu Xiangyang).*

◀ *Two cranes vye for the attention of this aloof female (by Wang Xinlin).*

The Zhalong Nature Reserve is located in the city of Qiqihar in western Heilongjiang Province. The reserve is dotted with numerous rivers and lakes which are covered in thick reeds and grass, making it an ideal home for water fowl.

Red-crowned cranes *(Grus japonensis)*, a rare species of the crane family, live in this area, therefore 42,000 hectares of the reserve has been designated a "Water Fowl Protected Area". The red-crowned crane is a gentle and aloof creature with beautiful white and black feathers. On the top of its head is a small fiery-red crown, which Chinese people regard as a symbol of good fortune and longevity.

In March and April, the cranes set off from southern China and fly north, finally landing in Zhalong, which at that time is still covered in white snow. There they peck at grass roots and wait patiently for spring to come. When the land turns green again, they begin their breeding season. They make their nests in shallow water and each female crane lays just two eggs. The male and female take turns hatching the eggs, and in about 30 days the little fluffy chicks break through the shell and emerge. When they are six months old, they fly to the Yangtse River Valley together with their parents to spend the winter.

Red-crowned cranes love to dance. Often after a big meal they will prance about in groups of three or four. Their movements as they "dance" are strangely similar to those of ballet dancers. During mating season, the young male bird will do a solo dance to woo the female. Tourists who come to Zhalong often have the good luck to witness one of these beautiful performances.

With meticulous and loving care, bird experts in Zhalong have successfully raised several flocks of cranes who live here year round. Unlike other cranes, who have to fly thousands of kilometres in search of food during the cold winter months, these birds stay because they are so well fed and looked after here. Why should they want to go anywhere else?

Translated by Wang Mingjie

In the summer months there are about 200 species of birds living here, such as storks, gulls, egrets, geese, ibis, ducks and cranes, but the red-crowned crane is the rarest of them all (by Wang Xinlin).

Locally bred red-crowned cranes dance a collective dance on the ice (by Wang Fuchun).

Once they are mated, red-crowned cranes stay together for life, similar to mandarin ducks (by Wang Xinlin).

Autumn in Zhalong is the season for harvesting crops. Wild red-crowned cranes are busy looking for food, preparing for the long journey south which they will soon begin (by Wang Xinlin).

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Northeast China's Yangko Dance

TEXT BY TIAN FU

The Yangko dance is a traditional folk dance of the Han Chinese commonly performed in the northern provinces. Yangko dancers usually wear bright and colourful costumes, and their movements are vigorous and quick. During holidays such as lunar New Year and the Lantern Festival, as soon as people hear the sound of drums and gongs they swarm into the streets to watch Yangko dance performances, no matter how cold it is outside.

In the old days in Northeast China, Yangko performances were divided into two categories, one sponsored by the local government and the other by private clubs. Performances would always begin with a man playing the role of Lord Shagong leading the way. Lord Shagong would usually be an excellent performer, skilled at both singing and narrating. In addition, he had to speak or sing off the cuff, improvising according to what he saw along the way. The dancers were usually dressed up as legendary figures such as Tripitaka, the Monkey King or Pigsy from the novel *Journey to the West*, or as other characters made famous through tales and myths. All the performers would be dressed in gorgeous clothes and wear heavy make-up.

An interesting aspect of the traditional type of performance was that the Lord Shagong would often use the opportunity of being on stage to voice his own opinions. The Lord Shagong of the officially sponsored teams, for example, would sing and speak in praise of "peace" and "prosperity", while the private club's Lord Shagong would mock various social evils during his performance. Sometimes when competing against each other, two Yangko teams would often clash, occasionally even coming to blows, due to differences of opinion.

Today, the Yangko dance of the Northeast has evolved into a new form known as Little Yangko. The dancers all wear the same costumes and follow the same dance steps as before, and still hold fans or colourful ribbons in their hands. The only difference is that there is no longer a Lord Shagong leading the way.

In recent years, elderly people in Harbin's suburbs have been organizing themselves into Yangko teams, with the dancers mostly in their sixties and early seventies. By doing the Yangko dance, they enjoy themselves while keeping fit all year round. In the countryside, Big Yangko teams are organized for wedding celebrations, birthday parties and so on. During the busy farming season the dancers work in the fields, but when the lunar New Year comes around they put on their costumes and go to private homes to perform the Yangko dance, ushering in the new year and carrying on an age-old tradition.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

Clockwise from top left:
Yangko dancers join in the fun during the Wusong Rime Festival in Jilin (by Lin Haiwen). ■ *A Big Yangko team departs on a performance tour of the villages during Spring Festival (by Shi Bao Xiu).* ■ *Yangko dancers on stilts parade through the streets (by Li Rouren).* ■ *Big Yangko dancers on the eve of the Lantern Festival. The next morning, the soft snowy ground will have become hard ice after a night of dancing (by Wang Xinlin).* ■ *Some of Harbin's elderly residents, wearing colourful costumes and heavy make-up, do the Yangko dance, nostalgic for their younger days (by Shi Bao Xiu).*

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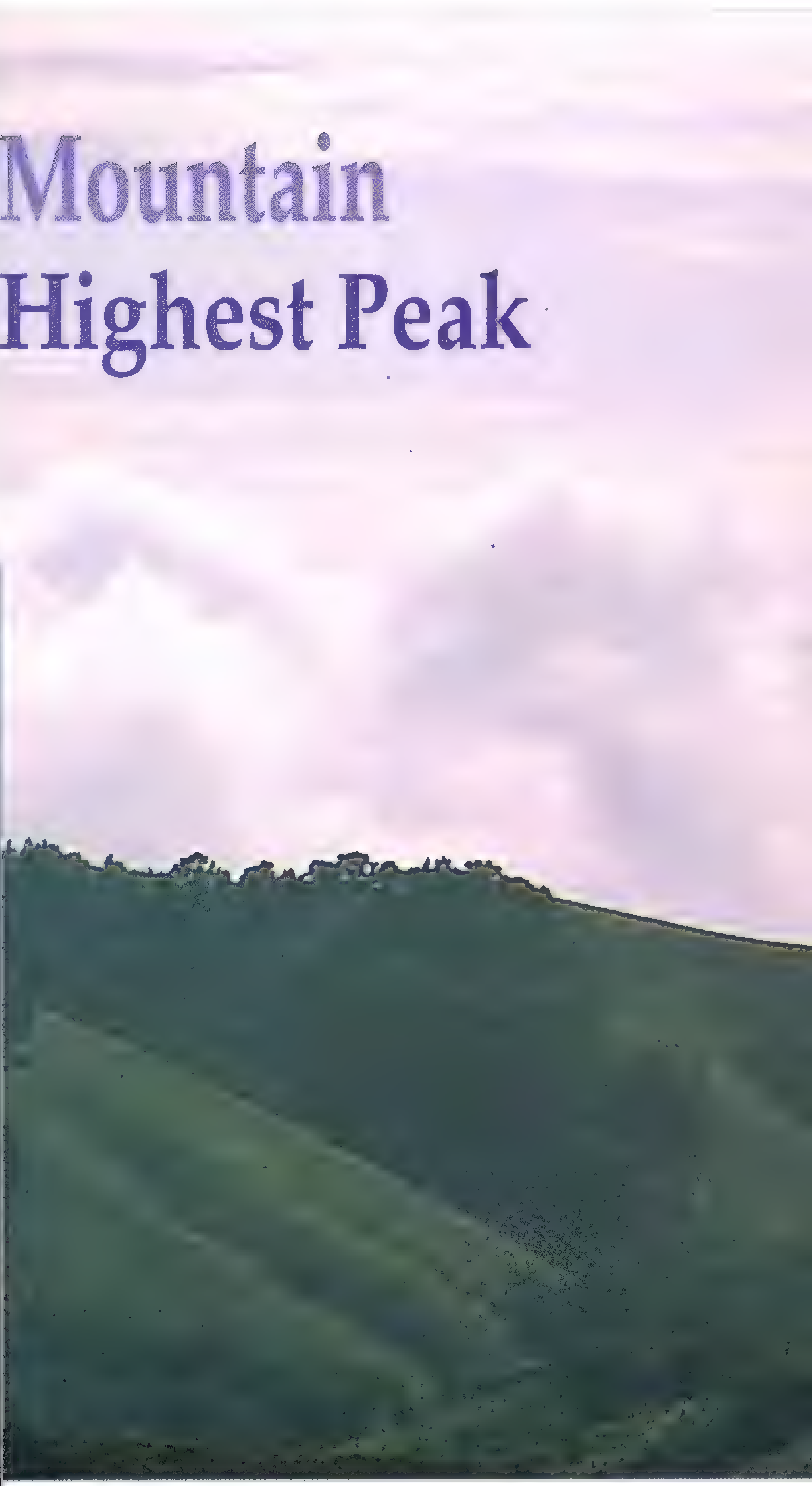
Climbing Wuzhi Mountain — Hainan's Highest Peak

ARTICLE BY LIU XIANGYANG & HUA NIAN



Pine trees growing in the crevices of cliffs are a unique sight on Wuzhi Mountain (by Liu Xiangyang).

As night approached a curtain of mist crept up from the bottom of the valley, stroking my face like a veil. I felt extremely relaxed, and deeply inhaled the fresh air of central Hainan.

Bonfires had been built in an open space by teachers and students of the Wuzhishan Middle School, who were having a party with another group of people who had come to make arrangements to set up a tourist campsite here. The mountaineering group I was with, consisting of 30 or so people, was invited to join in the singing and dancing. We were greatly moved by the straightforward manner and enthusiasm typical of these Miao and Li island-dwellers.

Starting Out in Wuzhishan

Located at the foot of Wuzhi Mountain, the Yabin Tourist Area of Wuzhishan is the best starting point for climbing Hainan's highest peak. Tourism here was developing rapidly: A hotel called Wuzhi Mountain Villa was being constructed, along with a folk culture village showcasing the customs of the Miao and Li nationalities, a mountaineering campsite and a hunting ground. However we had no interest in all these amenities — on the contrary, we wanted to get here before the tranquillity and simplicity was disturbed by steady streams of tourists.

Wuzhi Mountain is often enveloped in clouds and mist, therefore it is not easy to see all five "fingers" (by Liu Xiangyang).

Wuzhi Mountain's 1,867-metre-high summit consists of five towering peaks, which look like five fingers from a certain angle, thus the name Wuzhi (Five Finger) Mountain. The peaks are covered with dense virgin forest and are often enveloped in clouds, therefore few people are lucky enough to actually see all five "fingers". Wuzhishan Town is just at the foot of First Finger Peak, which one must cross in order to see the other four peaks.

Early the next morning, we packed our belongings and each person took with him a bottle of mineral water, a tin of mixed congee, a packet of biscuits and some fruit. After being given instructions by the security chief of the campsite, we headed for the peak.

We climbed from northwest to southeast and soon entered into a dense primeval forest, whose trees and tall shrubs completely shut out all sunlight. Thick fern covered the ground, and old liana hung down from the trees, intertwining with twigs and leaves to form a tight mesh which blocked our way. Our veteran guide occasionally had to use his machete to cut out a path for us.

We were told that leeches were prevalent in this area, usually sticking to twigs or leaves as they wait for their victims to brush past. Mountain-goers, therefore, have to keep their sleeves and trouser legs tightly wrapped and cover their heads with straw hats when they enter the forest. Fortunately we came in winter, when the blood suckers were less active due to the cold, and we were able to enjoy the scenery and exotic plants without having to worry about that particular hazard.

After a long and difficult trek up a steep slope, we arrived at our first stop — a scenic spot known as the "Half-a-Kilometre-High Waterfall". As its name suggests, the waterfall drops a distance of 500

Bonfires at the campsite in the Yabin Tourist Area provide much-needed light during nighttime parties (by Liu Xiangyang).

metres. Now, in the dry season, it looked gentle and elegant, quite different from the gushing and splashing of the rainy season.

To the Summit of First Finger Peak

After a short rest, we went on with our journey. At about half past eight I was taken by a security guard to see a stone tablet which is about 100 metres off the path. On the tablet are four Chinese characters which mean, in effect, that if you stood on the top of Wuzhi Mountain and held up a tree branch, you could touch the sun. Also on the tablet are the name Chen Hanguang and the date the inscription was made. Chen Hanguang was a brigade commander in charge of the troops that were garrisoning the island during China's Republic (1912-1949). One day he ordered a company of soldiers to erect this tablet on the top of Wuzhi Mountain. They struggled to get to the top, but all their efforts were in vain, and in the end they had to erect the stone tablet en route.

The rivers at Wuzhi Mountain run through Miao and Li villages, irrigating their fields and gardens (by Hua Nian).

Next, we arrived at a place called Suolian (Chain) Cliff, where one must climb up the steep mountain path with a cliff on the right and a deep valley on the left. We all had to use our hands to climb up, as our companions pushed and tugged from either end. Though limp and trembling with fear at the sights below, we had no alternative but to grit our teeth and continue climbing. Only when we got to a small terrace at the top did we dare stop to catch our breath.

Suddenly I caught sight of a cluster of red Wuzhi Mountain Orchids. According to experts, over 170 varieties of orchids have been found on this mountain, including Golden-Leaf Margin Orchids, Tiger-Head Orchids, Ivory-White Orchids, Peace-and-Happiness Orchids, 10,000-Joint Orchids, Butterfly Orchids and others. Although I was unable to name the exact type of orchid I saw, I was satisfied just to admire its beauty from afar, as it was located on a precipitous cliff which no one could reach.

At last we got to the top of First Finger Peak. We looked into the distance and saw green pine forests on the eastern slopes, undulating hills to the north, and a highway winding like a silver ribbon in the west. Clouds and mist curled up from the forest, sometimes gathering, sometimes dispersing.

Little Miao girls have to share their mothers' responsibilities (by Hua Nian).

Miao husbands are model babysitters (by Hua Nian).

The exquisite and colourful Miao embroidery is a treat to photograph (by Hua Nian).

Viewed from the town of Wuzhishan, First Finger Peak looks more like a pyramid than a finger (by Hua Nian).

In these virgin forests, vines and trees are often indistinguishable (by Liu Xiangyang).

Climbing up the "Chain Cliff" is a test of both courage and strength (by Liu Xiangyang).

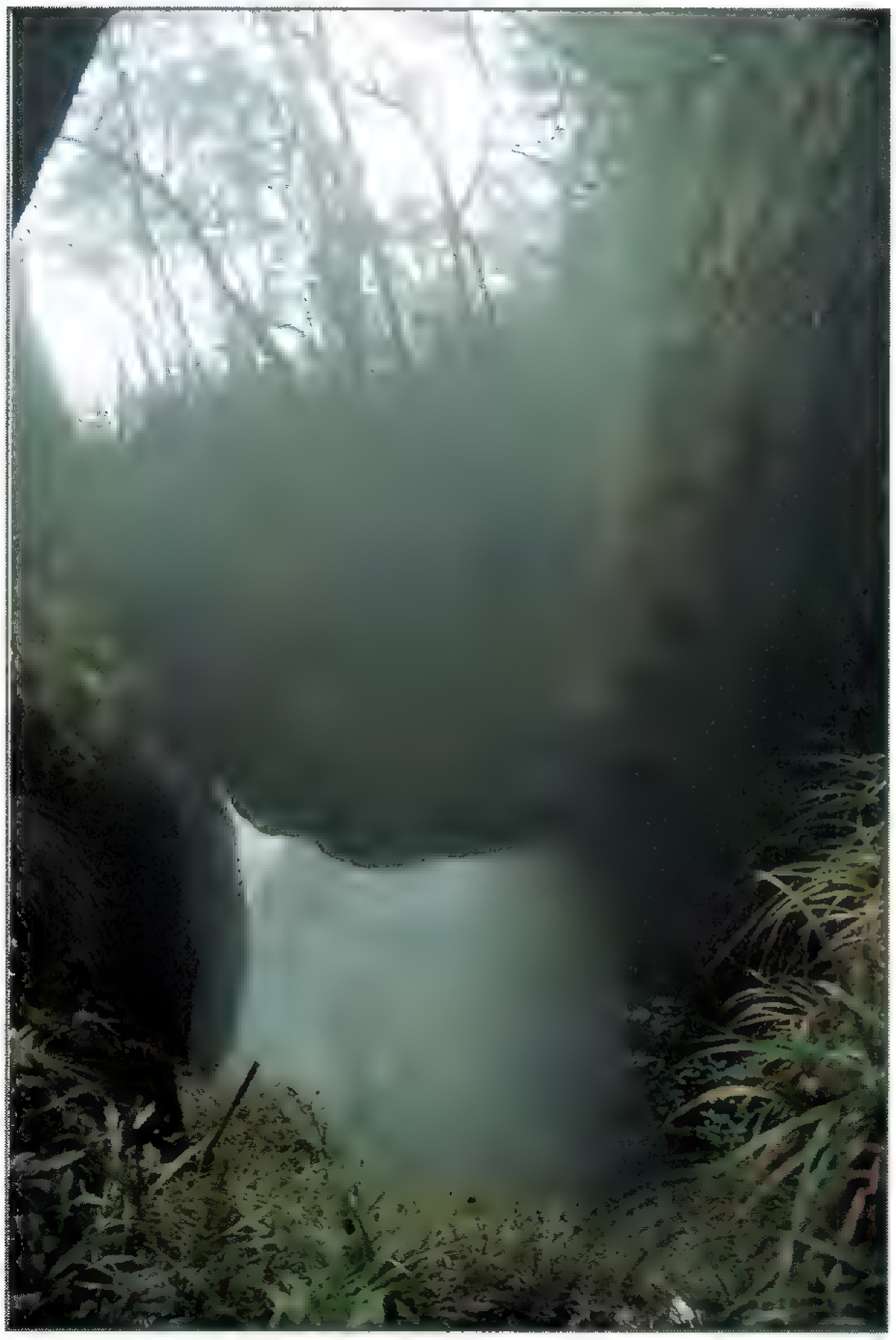
Catching Sight of a Heavenly Bridge

After resting for a while we descended the peak and climbed Second Finger Peak, which is 1,867 metres high. It is said that there is a "Heavenly Bridge" connecting First Finger Peak and Second Finger Peak, but so far few people have ever seen it. This is because if you want to see it you must descend a cliff for some 500 metres, and a slight misstep could cost you your life. Besides, even if one made it down successfully, the bridge might well be enveloped in fog and therefore invisible. Partially out of a sense of responsibility and partially attracted by the legend, I made up my mind to see the bridge with my own eyes, no matter what dangers and difficulties there might be.

I asked the security guard to be my guide and we climbed down the cliff. I was very lucky, because nothing was blocking my view and I could see all the way to the bottom of the valley. Then, lo and behold, I saw a huge rock arching between the two peaks, located about halfway up. However, without any mountaineering gear it was impossible for me to attempt to reach the Heavenly Bridge. An hour later I got to the top of the Second Finger Peak to join my party.

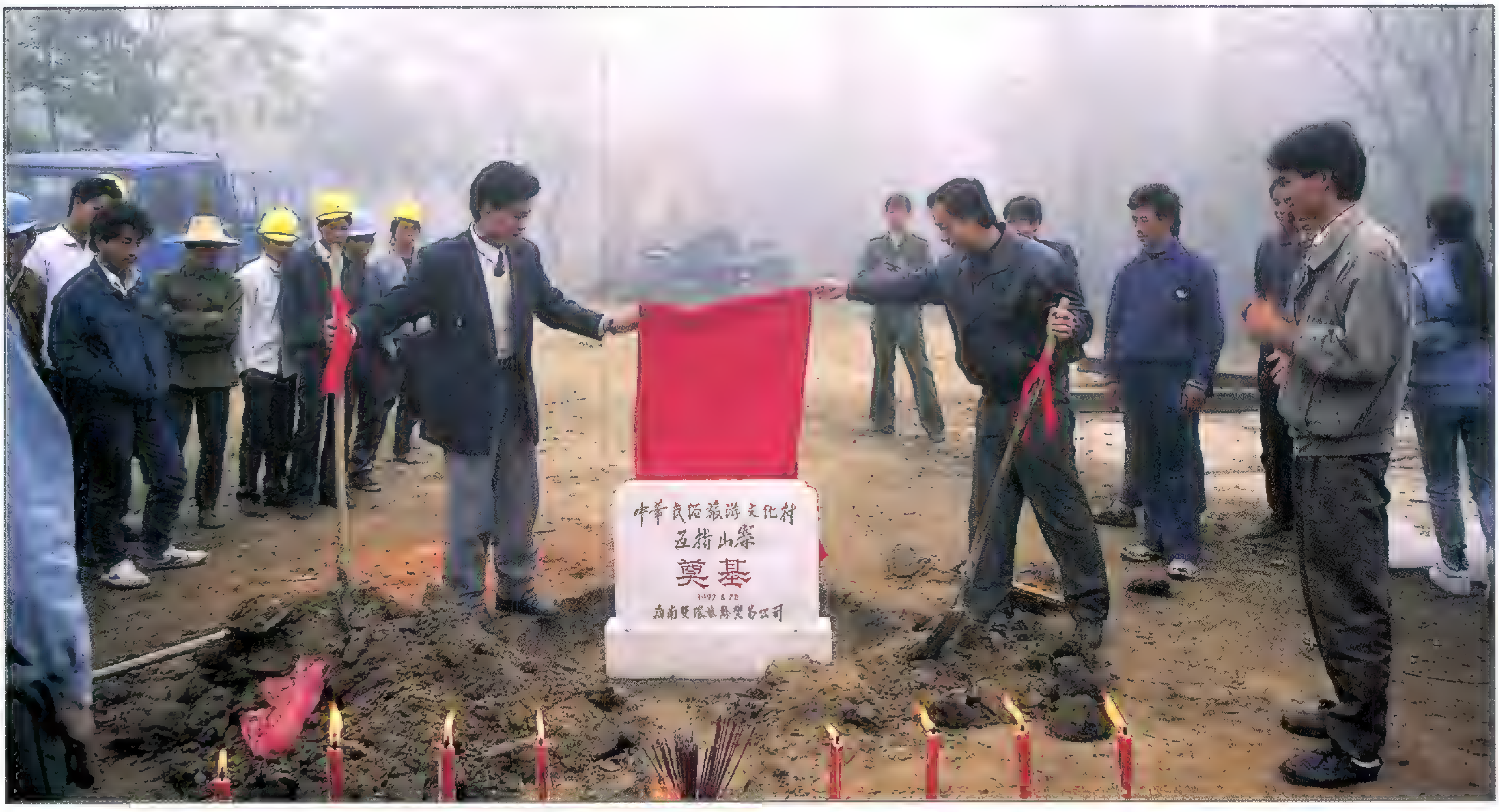
Second Finger Peak is the highest peak on Wuzhi Mountain, consequently on Hainan Island. On the top there is a flat area about 200 square metres in size. From here one has a panoramic view of the Third, Fourth and Fifth peaks and the surrounding towns of Qiongzhong, Ledong and Baoting. On a sunny day you can even see Sanya City, Dongfang County, Haikou City and the Nansha Archipelago in the distance.

10,000-Joint Orchids can be seen everywhere on Wuzhi Mountain (by Liu Xiangyang).



This huge rock clamped between two cliffs forms a "Heavenly Gate" (by Liu Xiangyang).

These tropical forests are teeming with exotic and rare species of wild plants (by Hua Nian).


中華民俗旅游文化村
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A foundation stone-laying ceremony marks the start of the construction of a modern hotel — the Wuzhi Mountain Villa — and a folk culture village (by Liu Xiangyang).

Swings made from old vines are great fun for children in the Wuzhi Mountain area (by Hua Nian).

Right below us was a deep ravine which cut between the Second and Third peaks. The sheer cliffs of the Third Peak looked impossible to ascend. In fact, it is said that no one has ever set foot there, and for this reason it is regarded as the most mysterious peak of the five. Another legend says that the peak was once the highest of the five, but was later struck by lightning. The tip of the peak broke off and dropped into the sea by Lingshui County and became a rock with "five fingers", thus it was given the name "the Sister Rock of Five Finger Mountain". As a result, the Third Peak is lower than the Second Peak by only a small chunk.

We had heard of a phenomenon peculiar to Wuzhi Mountain: It is said that if you shout very loudly you can make the fog rise and the clouds move. We decided to give it a try and all shouted at the top of our lungs, but our effort was in vain. Perhaps it was not the right season — summer — to see this spectacle. The only response we got was our own voices as they echoed among the five peaks.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Tongshi Holiday Resort in the northern suburb of Tongshi City, the political and economic centre of the Wuzhi Mountain area (by Liu Xiangyang)

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The Chong'an River, enveloped in morning fog, looks peaceful and gentle.

Life Along the Chong'an River — Miao and

Villagers bring self-made baskets to be sold at the market in Chong'anjiang Town.

These two men, each carrying a horizontal board with a brilliant red inscription, are returning home from a local county fair.

Ge Rural Communities in Guizhou

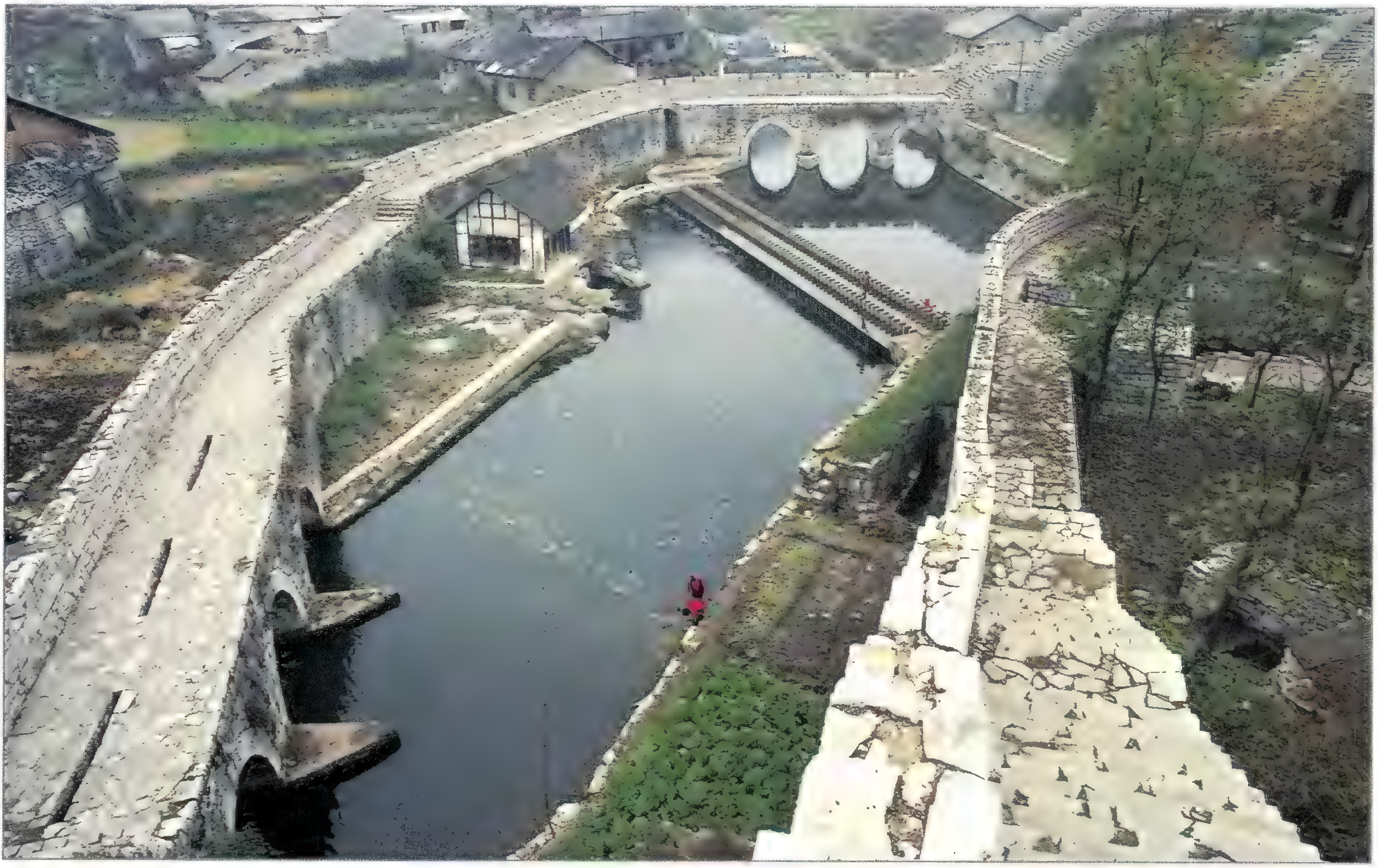
PHOTOS BY ER DONGQIANG   ARTICLE BY LI JIE

Anyone planning a trip to Guizhou Province in Southwest China should consider a visit to some of the towns along the Chong'an River. Although not far from the capital of Guiyang, this area is seldom seen by tourists. Apart from the beautiful landscape, there are three towns of particular interest along the river, namely Chong'anjiang, named after the river, plus Fuquan and Gulong. The mountains and rivers in this area are virtually untouched by modern industrial society, and life continues much as it has done for centuries.

As day breaks, villagers near the Chong'an River lead their cattle to the fields (by Liu Xuewen).

Despite long years of use, the 16 iron chains on the Iron Chain Bridge spanning the Chong'an River remain solid and intact.

The snow-white beancurd sold at the market is fresh and very nutritious.



Fuquan, an ancient "Water City", was built between mountains and a river during the Ming Dynasty.

The Chong'an River traces its source to the enormous Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, and can poetically be described as a glittering green ribbon. Life here is very peaceful and quiet. Early risers who live along the river punt their boats loaded with grain across the river to a hydraulic mill. These mills have been used here to remove the husk from wheat for perhaps thousands of years. Although the villagers have diesel mills at their disposal, they detest the smell of fuel that pervades the flour during processing. They would much rather spend the extra time and go over to the ancient hydraulic mill. Later as the sun is setting, they return home with their sacks of freshly-ground flour. Spanning the river is the renowned Iron Chain Bridge. Built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), its 16 thick chains are still in good condition, and the old-style bridge lends the town an ancient atmosphere.

Market Day in Chong'anjiang

Backed by a ridge of mountains, Chong'anjiang is a small and beautifully situated town. The houses that line the river, which threads past the town, are reflected in the water, and many of the old buildings still have enclosed walls. At one time a number of quays were located along the river to serve the merchant ships that regularly sailed upstream bringing goods.

Today there are about 60 villages inhabited by Han and Miao people that fall under the jurisdiction of Chong'anjiang Town.

On market day, I watched people come by boat to Chong'anjiang from the surrounding villages. No matter what ethnic group they belonged to, all of the men wore the blue suits common to Han Chinese, therefore it was difficult to distinguish nationalities unless one heard them speak. The women, however, did wear traditional costumes, making it easy to determine whether they belonged to the Hua (Flower) Miao, Bouyei, Ge or Dong nationalities. Each ethnic group has its own distinctive type of costume, recognizable by the type of silver jewellery they wear and whether their clothes are embroidered, made of batik or of another type of cloth.

At the market the most popular items were the beautiful hats and the beancurd sold at the stalls run by the Miao. The Miao also sold eggs held together by woven straw, a practical and convenient way to carry them. The market lasted the whole day, and at sunset the streets were crowded with people making their way home. I occasionally spotted a villager carrying a horizontal board with a congratulatory message written on it, which would be used back in his village to celebrate some important event.

At the foot of the ancient town wall in Fuquan, a flock of geese frolic in the water.

The 20-metre-high Gejing Bridge straddles the Chong'an River.

A view of the river from Gejing Bridge

Maize is strung together and suspended along the eaves to dry for future use.

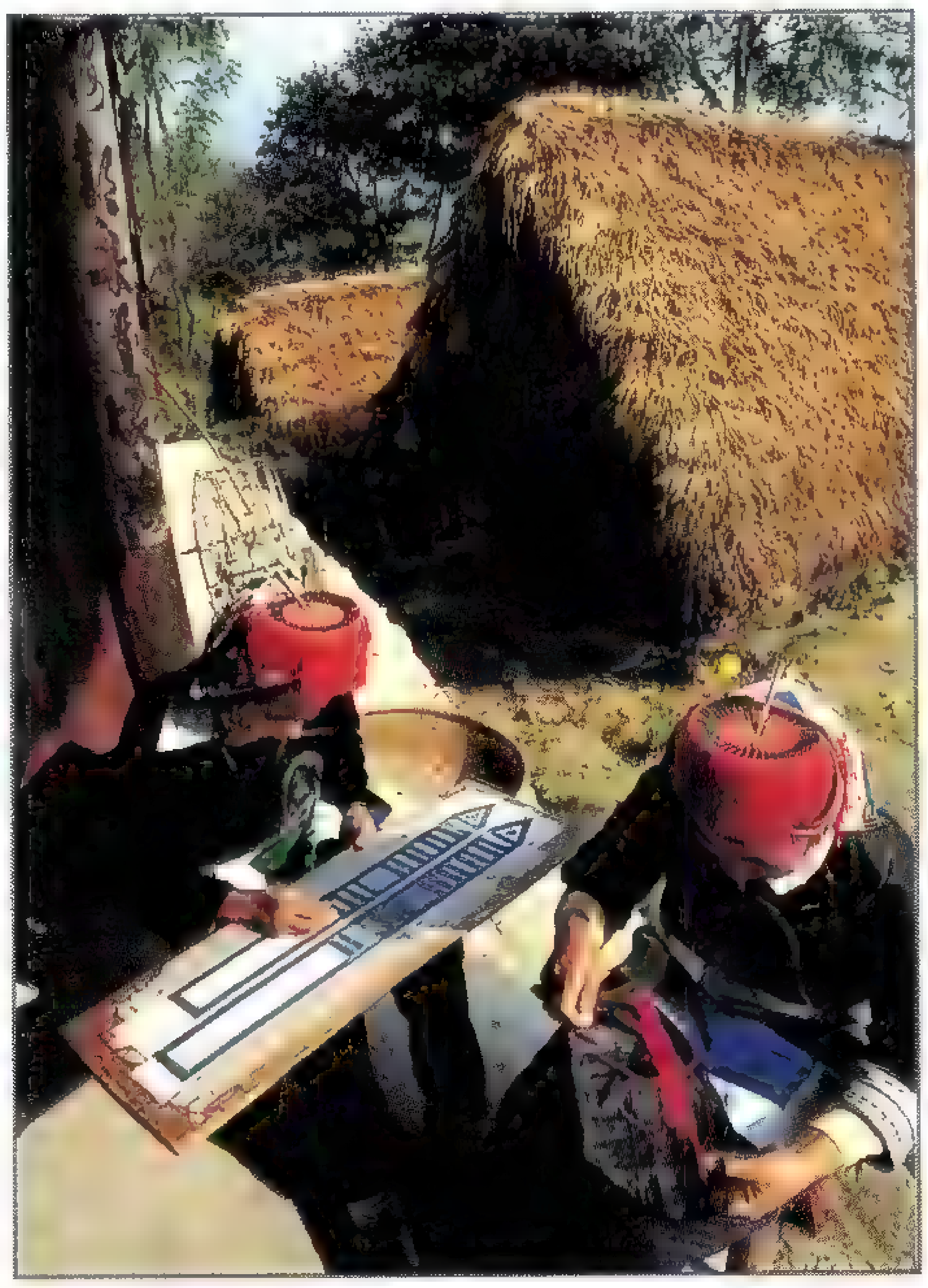
Sorghum is a staple of the Miao diet, and like maize is hung around the house to dry.

Boating in the Moonlight

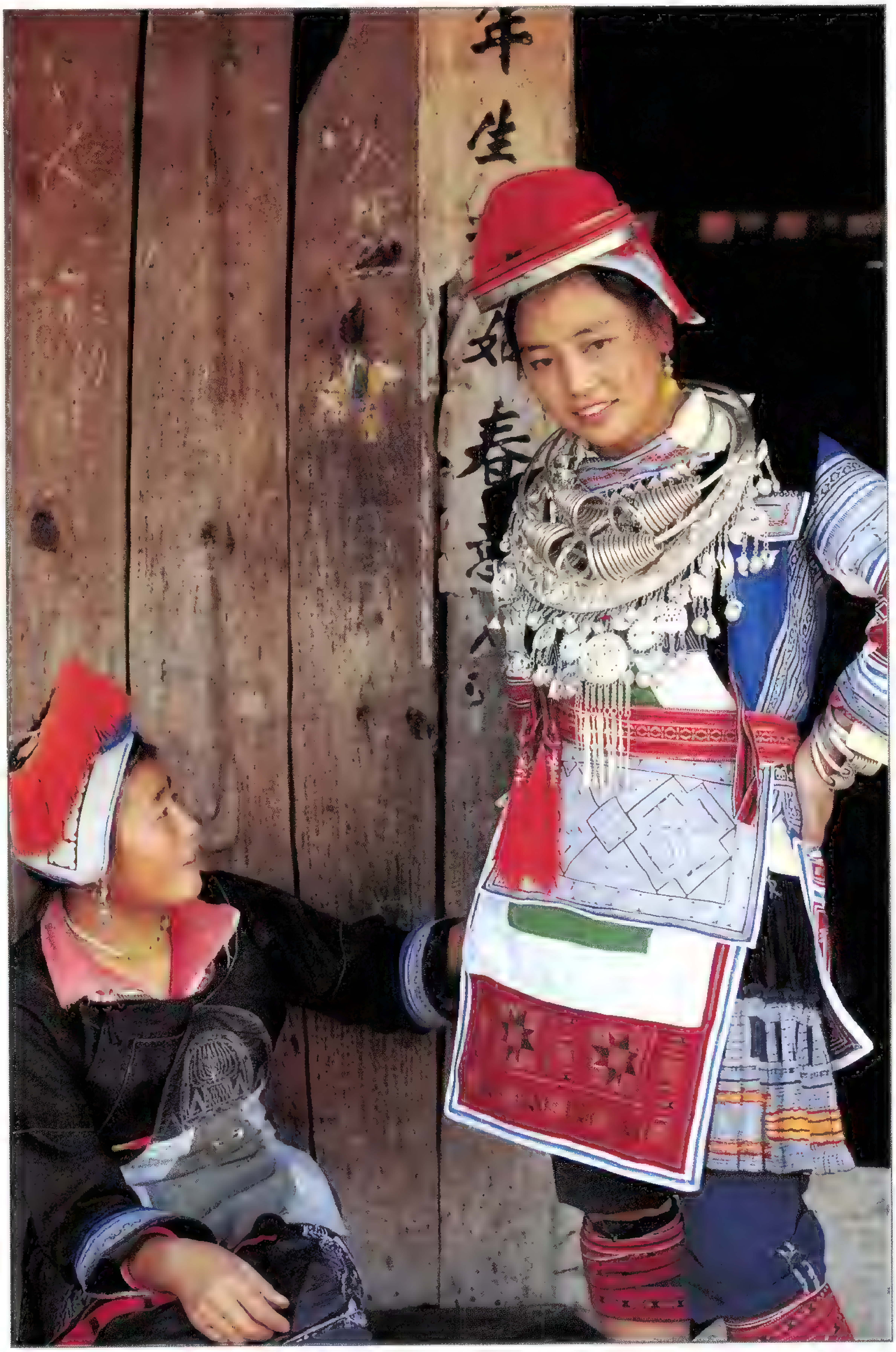
As for me, I returned to the house that was my temporary lodging. My host had dinner all prepared for me, and as we ate I told him about my day at the market, and he in turn asked me about city life. Like everyone else here, he led a simple, quiet existence. The house was spick and span both inside and out, and in traditional Chinese style, auspicious couplets were pasted on either side of the door. The first thing every morning my host would light candles and incense, and kowtow to his ancestors.

Women of the Miao minority can play both Sheng *and flute.*

Small photos, top to bottom:
Delicate work like weaving and embroidery is an everyday task for Ge girls.
Ge women often spin yarn, weave or embroider in front of their houses after lunch.
During the autumn harvest, rice is collected in baskets then put out to dry.
Opposite page: *These Ge girls are learning how to do the "Stool Dance" from an experienced older woman (by Liu Xuewen).*
Below: *Ge women's traditional costumes include batik, embroidery and large amounts of silver ornaments.*



In the evening after dinner, candles were again lit for his wife to see by as she mended and sewed. I decided to go out and enjoy the night air, so I hired a boat and rowed out under the moonlight. Ripples glittered on the water's surface, and flames from resin torches fluttered in the distance. Gentle songs echoed along the water's surface. I rowed the boat towards the place where the songs were coming from, feeling as if I were in a dream. Suddenly the quiet was



broken by my host, calling to me from the bank. Only then did I realize that it was already quite late, so I turned round and slowly rowed back.

Sailing downstream along the Chong'an River the next day, our boat arrived at an ancient town named Fuquan. Construction of Fuquan's town wall first began in 1368, the first year of the Ming Dynasty, and was completed 30 years later in 1398. From 1465 to 1487, a fortification wall was built outside the western entrance to the town, through which water was channelled. Then in 1603, an outer wall was built and the waterway was enclosed, hence the fortification system altogether consisted of the inner wall, the waterway wall and the outer wall. The latter two were built along the mountain slope, and 100 stone steps lead up to a tall platform. From the top of the steps one can see that the walls are still solidly linked together after all these years, and one can begin to imagine how the town must have looked centuries ago.

In Fuquan I visited a place called the Mayang (Horse-and-Sheep) Cave. There were no lights inside, therefore we carried resin torches and groped our way forward in the darkness. Overhead were all sorts of strangely-shaped stalactites. Another site worth visiting in Fuquan is the Gejing Bridge, built between 1573 and 1620 during the Ming Dynasty with funds donated by a man called Ge Jing. Each flagstone on this bridge is 30 square centimetres in size, looking a bit like pieces of beancurd, hence the bridge is also called "Beancurd Bridge" by the locals. This triple-arched stone bridge is over 20 metres high and 50 metres long, with its western section actually hollowed out of a sheer cliff. It is hard to imagine the difficulties involved in building a bridge like this using the simple techniques available at that time. Although it was constructed 370 years ago, the bridge — not as soft as its name suggests! — still remains solid and intact.

A Visit to a Hua Miao Village

The Hua Miao are a sub-group of the Miao nationality, and the region along the Chong'an River is the only settlement where they live in compact communities. We set out early one day to visit a Hua Miao village, crossing green fields with row upon row of persimmon trees laden with fruit.

The village was small, yet it had its own village head (the eldest of the villagers) and strict village rules. Whoever wants to enter must first say the password or they are turned away. At night, to keep unwanted visitors out, a lorry is parked on the path, blocking the way to the village. The villagers also take security measures to protect themselves from theft by outsiders. Within the village, however, they have no such fear, since stealing is considered extremely shameful.

In this quiet mountain area, the Hua Miao live a simple, peaceful rural life. They grow maize on the mountain slopes and hang it in strings on their door or window frames to dry, to be ground up later into meal or flour. Since there are no modern forms of entertainment such as TV or clubs in this mountainous area, as night falls groups of young people often get together at one person's house to play *lusheng* pipes and sing and dance. The host entertains the visitors with food, while everyone else takes part in helping out the host with chores, singing all the time.

As they have few outside visitors, our arrival was a major event and we were given parties by one family after another, with one party often lasting several hours. Perhaps time is one thing the people here have in great abundance. When it was time to leave the village, I learned about an interesting Miao custom — no visitor is allowed to leave until they have drunk a substantial number of glasses of "farewell wine", which of course does not make leaving any easier!

Special Customs in a Ge Village

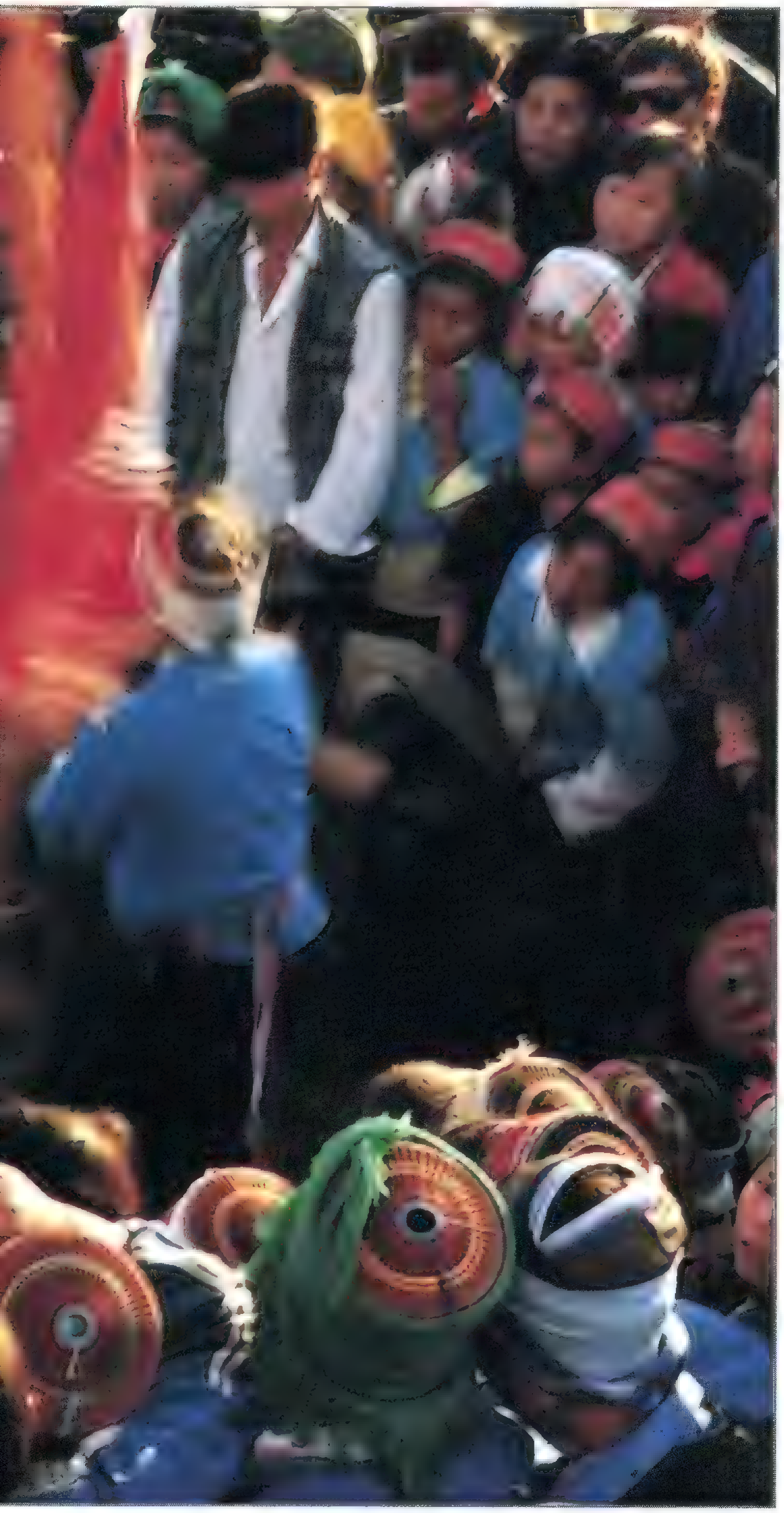
Legend has it that once upon a time, a man in a Ge village vowed that he could cross a hundred mountains and kill a hundred tigers in three days. If he failed in his quest, he believed that he would not be worthy of being considered a Ge, and said that he would leave home for good. His wife similarly pledged that she would fetch a hundred loads of water and cook a hundred baskets of rice, or she too would no longer be worthy of remaining in the Ge village. Having made these vows, the man set off for the mountains and the woman headed to the river. Three days later, both of them had accomplished what they set out to do. Together they killed the last tiger and brought peace to their mountain village.

This team of four dancers was one of the most impressive at the Lusheng Pipe Festival (by Lin Yongle).

Antiphonal or "cross" singing is an indispensable part of life among young Ge people. Whenever young men and women get together in courtyards or in the mountains, they invariably separate into two groups according to sex and begin their antiphonal singing. First the men sing a verse of a song and then the women answer, also in song. This is done in groups or by couples as a courtship ritual.

Apart from singing, the Ge people also enjoy dancing. One of their favourite dances is called the Lusheng Pipe Dance, performed by one man and one woman. Before the dance begins, a row of men with pipes stand outside a shed and begin to play their instruments. One girl first listens, and then chooses her would-be fiancée. She follows him into the shed and begins dancing. The young man plays the pipe while tapping his foot to the beat, and then turns round and pur-

Top: *Each of these huge stone tablets records Gulong's rules and regulations.*
Middle: *Taking a break from the festival, these men give their birds a rest, as they must soon compete in bird-fighting contests.*



Miao people make lovely hats for their children especially when they are made for festive occasions.

posely steps lightly on the girl's toes with his heel. The dance is always a lively affair, full of fun and laughter.

Since the Ge poeple live in remote mountainous areas they have been able to preserve their own unique culture, handing down their knowledge and traditions from generation to generation. One of the skills the Ge are most well known for is their batik making. The batik patterns produced here are highly geometric and usually depict flowers, plants, insects, fish, birds and animals. Often these images are rendered with exaggerated features, making them appear almost abstract. Other designs are neat and concise, with dots and lines creating varied patterns.

Batik-making is very much a part of the Ge woman's life. Each household has batik-making tools, and girls begin at an early age to learn from their mothers how to make patterns on cloth with melted wax. By the time they reach their teens they are able to draw simple patterns on their own. When they are old enough to marry, they are already skilled at drawing, and by then have prepared their own batik wedding dresses and bedding.

Watching Ge women make batik is indeed an aesthetic experience. Many are so proficient at drawing that they can even do geometric patterns freehand. If a pattern is especially complicated, they count the number of threads and trace a draft on the cloth with their fingernails. They then spread a piece of white cloth on a board, melt some wax in a bowl over a charcoal burner, and when the temperature of the wax reaches a certain point, it is used like ink to draw all kinds of beautiful patterns. A complicated procedure to the eyes of a layperson, batik-making is just part of a day's work for Ge women, an indispensable skill that they all must master.

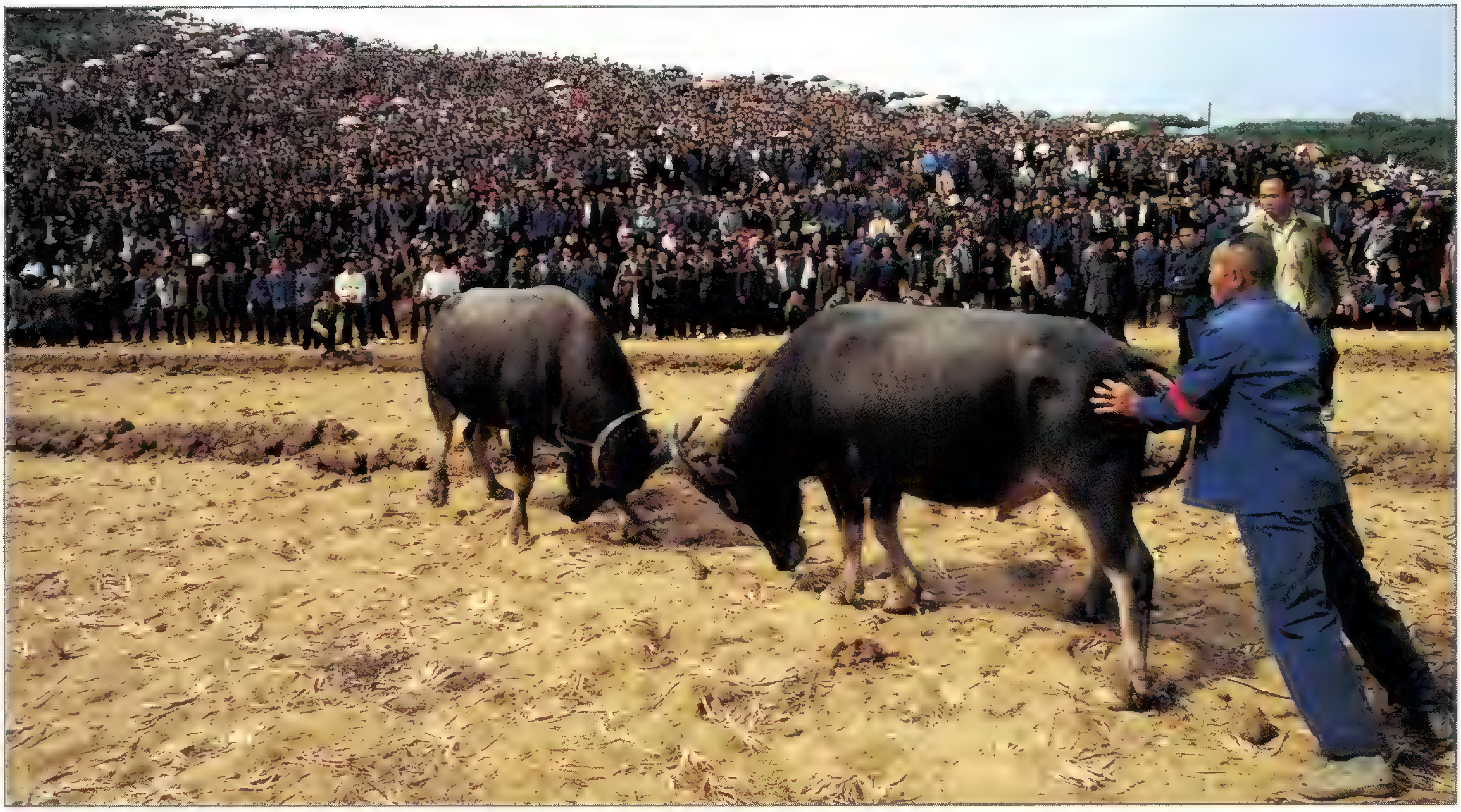
Although they live in remote regions and retain many of their traditional customs, I found the Ge people to be very open-minded, and not at all averse to modern life. At the Guiyang Hotel in the capital I met a number of Ge women who were employed there, all of whom seemed to be well-informed on recent events. The men are perhaps slightly less resilient, and worry that if too many Ge women get jobs in the cities there will be no one left in the villages, a valid concern.

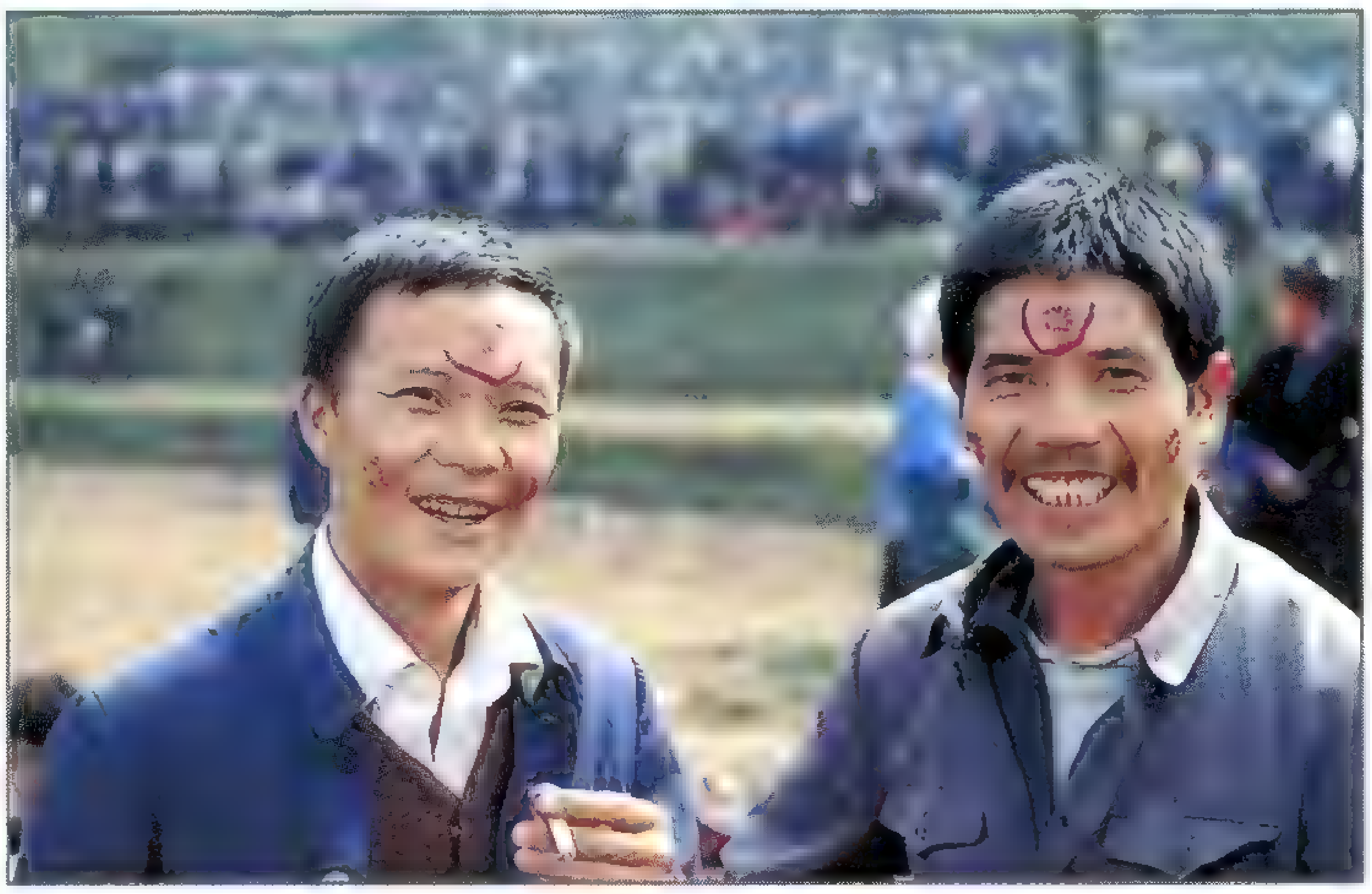
The Main Event — The Lusheng Pipe Festival

The Lusheng Pipe Festival is held annually from the 27th day to the 29th day of the ninth lunar month on a large open ground in Gulong. Next to the Lunar New Year Festival, this is the most important event of the year for the local Miao people.

The winning bull is decorated with peacock feathers and little red flags.

Women also participated in the Lusheng Pipe Dance, putting on performances that far outdid the men's.





Top: *In Gulong, the bull-fighting event attracted huge crowds of spectators, with each village cheering for its own bull.*
Above: *During the Lusheng Pipe Festival, everyone has a red mark painted on their face to distinguish them from those who have not yet imbibed, as drinking is a traditional part of the festivities.*

Before the festival, the Miao women in the villages nearby busily prepare for the occasion by making new dresses, while men gather firewood, clean the house, wash clothes, sun their bedding and polish the walls and floors. Horsemen buy ribbons and saddles to decorate their steeds, and cattlemen feed their bulls particularly well, hoping that theirs will win the next bull fighting contest. In each household, all sorts of delicacies and wine are prepared.

When the festival was ready to commence, each family brought food and drink with them and set out for Gulong. At the site of the festival a horse-racing track had been marked out, half on flat ground, half on a slope. At the crack of a gun, dozens of horses began to gallop forward, kicking up clouds of dust. On the flat ground a few horses took the lead, but once on the slope fell behind, creating an exciting and unusual race. Meanwhile, in the bull-fighting arena several pairs of bulls were locked in combat. The spectators shouted at the top of their lungs to encourage the bulls. At the end, the winner was decorated with peacock feathers and little red flags — and honour for both the bull and its master .

The climax of the festival was of course the pipe dance itself. Several hundred *lusheng* pipe players were arranged in groups, while hundreds of Miao girls in traditional costumes began to dance. According to Miao tradition, girls do not play the *lusheng* pipes. This has changed, however, and at today's festival the girls also formed their own *lusheng* pipe bands, which were, in fact, a major attraction. They were able to not only play beautifully but also dance at the same time, putting on a performance that far outdid the men's.

This festival has become an extremely important social event for the Miao people. The girls wear their best clothes and the most splendid silver jewellery they can find. This is because their outfits and decorations are signs of beauty and wealth, and as such attract both attention and admiration. For the men, the most important qualities a woman looks for are how he expresses himself on the *lusheng* pipes and how he dances. Thus, the festival serves the added purpose of matchmaker for all the young people in the neighbouring villages, who otherwise might not ever get a chance to meet.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

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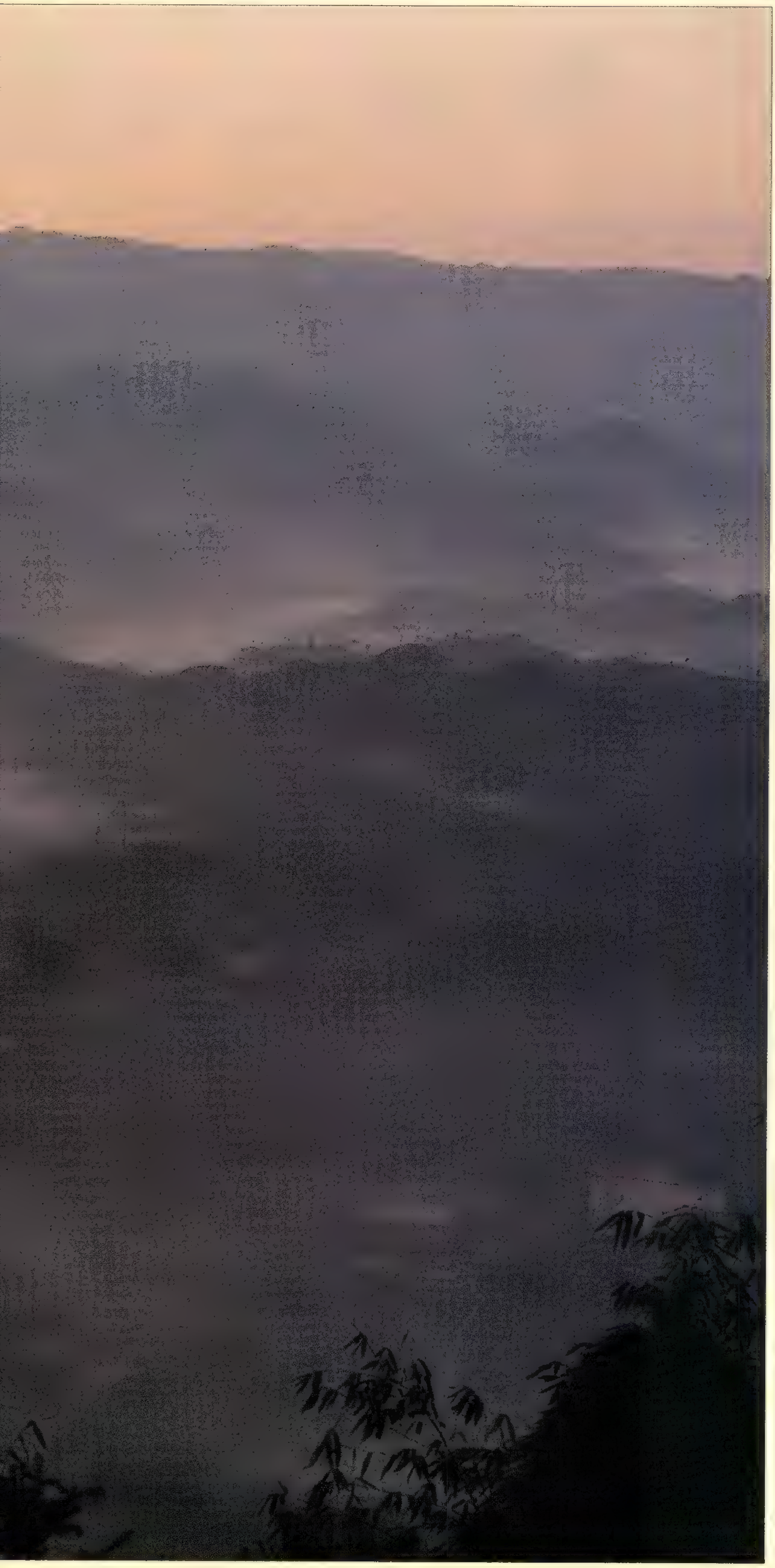


On Pilgrimage to Longhua, a Buddhist Haven

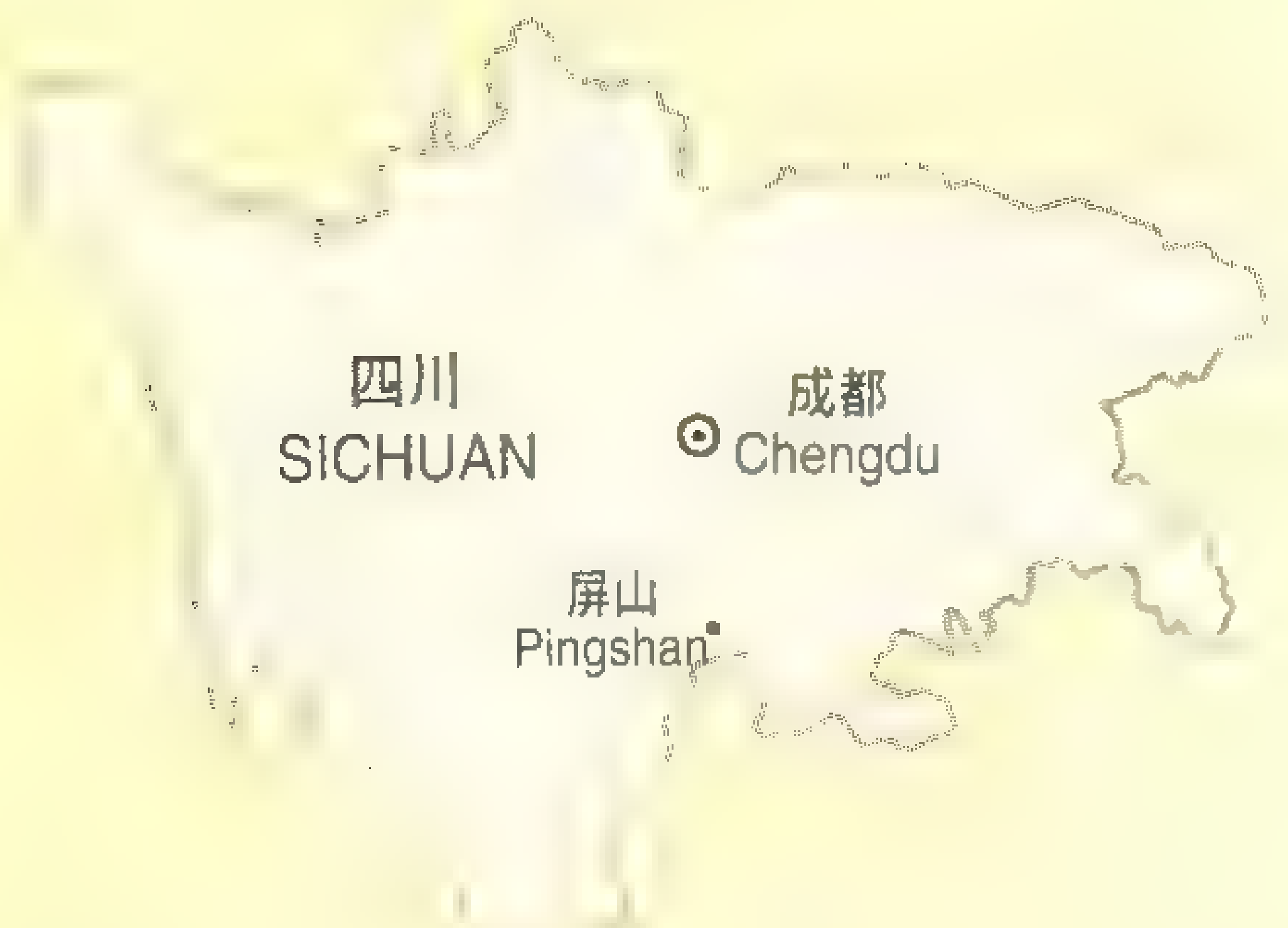
ARTICLE BY CHEN WEI

When we saw the road marker that read "Minjiang River, 37 kilometres", we knew we had arrived at our destination, the ancient town of Longhua. To reach this very remote region in southern Sichuan Province, we had come via Yibin, sailed west 60 kilometres up the Jinsha River to Pingshan County at the border with Yunnan, drove north through the sun-scorched Jinsha Valley and finally crossed the foothills of the Lesser Liangshan Mountains.

Above : *Old shops flank Longhua's Shunhe (Riverside) Street (by Chen Wei)*

Left : *The morning mist hovering over the fields lends an air of serenity to this ancient town (by Chen Jin).*

Stone carvings in the Palace of Emperor Yu are inscribed with pictures illustrating the classic Chinese novel **Romance of the Three Kingdoms** *(by Chen Jin).*



Standing on the century-old Liangqiao Bridge which serves as the entrance to Longhua, one can see that two rivers converge here in the shadow of Baxian (Eight Immortals) Hill. One is known as the Dalong (Greater Dragon) River or "Green Dragon" for its clean, mirror-like water; the other, so muddy that it reminds one of the silt-laden Yellow River, is called the Xiaolong (Lesser Dragon) River, or "Yellow Dragon".

The Birth of a Town

The name of the town, however — although the word "long" of Longhua does mean dragon — has nothing to do with these two rivers. The town owes both its name and existence to Longhua Temple, built in 1546 during the Ming Dynasty.

Before the construction of this temple, Longhua was nothing more than a resting place for passing caravans and travellers. The completion of the temple turned Longhua into a burgeoning religious centre almost overnight. Pilgrims arrived in droves, with many choosing to stay and make their homes in the vicinity. Some of them made a living by setting up shops. An ever-growing population, the arrival of more merchants, and the construction of more temples combined to make Longhua a lively and deeply religious area.

During the war-torn final years of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the town suffered a recession. It was not until the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty that Longhua came into its own once again. The population expanded considerably, and Longhua Temple became such a thriving religious sanctuary that seven more temples were built around the town. The resurrection of religion brought a corresponding boom to the local people, and trade flourished. Today, however, all that is left of Longhua Temple is its main prayer hall. No trace of Buddhist idols can be found and the walls and masonry bear mossy signs of age. The former pomp and pageantry of the temple's religious life is no more.

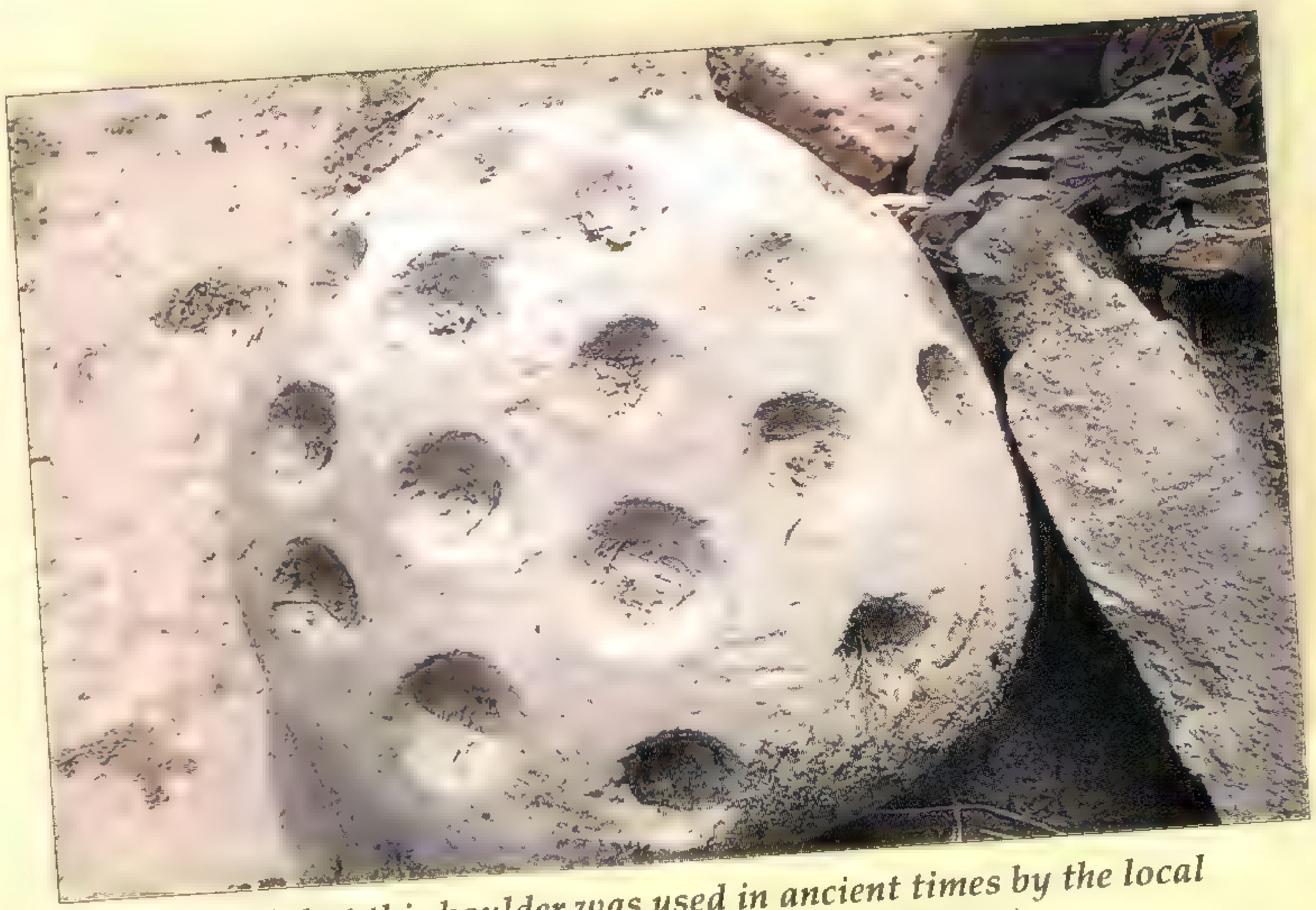
Not far from Longhua Temple stands the well-preserved Palace of Emperor Yu, the reputed founder of the Xia Dynasty (c. 21st-16th century B.C.) and deified as a god who could harness the rivers and subdue dragon kings. The palace was built in an unknown year by immigrants from Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. Legend has it that the emperor led his people in an epic battle against floods in southern China, which then was crisscrossed by rivers and studded with lakes.

No objects are left inside the Palace of Emperor Yu, but the relief sculptures on the stone railings inside are magnificent. There are dozens of them, each depicting a vivid story adapted from the classic novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms.* The local people proudly believe that during a southern expedition masterminded by Zhuge Liang, prime minister of the State of Shu during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), his western detachment fought its way into the Greater Liangshan Mountains by way of Longhua. A temple just behind Longhua Temple dedicated to the prime minister offers credence to this story.

Reminders of History

Longhua today is a scene of rural peace and tranquillity. More than one century ago, however, it was of important strategic significance due to its geographical location. For one period of time a local tribe called the Yi and the majority Han Chinese were locked in a bitter struggle for control of the town. To quell the disturbance and protect the safety of merchants travelling to and from the place, the Qing court established a 600-strong garrison in 1851 to keep Longhua

This large tree looks even more impressive with a mythical animal carved in stone around its thick trunk (by Chen Jin).



It is believed that this boulder was used in ancient times by the local government office to distribute soldiers' pay (by Chen Jin).

Paper made from bamboo being dried in the sun in Longhua. The mountains around the town abound in bamboo (by Chen Jin).

An exquisitely carved stone water vat in the town (by Chen Jin)

The sound of firecrackers fills the air on New Year's Eve (by Chen Wei).

under control. Walls were erected around the town, and a government office, barracks and military drilling grounds were built. After making repeated inquiries, I was finally introduced to a Mr. Ran, the great-great-grandson of a company commander in the former Longhua garrison. He told me that his paternal great-great-grandfather was a native of Shandong Province and had followed his commanding officer to Longhua. He settled down here after the battle between the Yi and the Han people had been put down.

The old man showed me around the garrison commander's office, now converted into a farmhouse with a walled enclosure. A stone tablet inscribed with the name of the army garrison is the only reminder of the house's true origins.

Together with my guide named Mr. Shen, I rambled through Longhua's maze of lanes and alleyways. As we reached the front gate of the town, Mr. Shen told me that he was Longhua's last night watchman. In the past a watchman was held in high esteem for his job as defender of public security and for his skill in martial arts. Mr. Shen told me that back then, every evening watchmen sounded the watch in the streets with a gong at two-hour intervals.

When the second watch was sounded, it was time for townspeople calling on neighbours to go home and for visitors from outside to return to their hostels and inns. By the third watch, the watchmen would lock up all the town's seven gates, and nobody was allowed to leave or enter town without special permission. The doors would remain closed until dawn was announced at the fifth watch. Today the gates are no longer locked, and no watchman is needed. Mr. Shen is now a cobbler, repairing shoes for passers-by on Liangqiao Bridge.

Strong Buddhist Roots

Religious roots run deep in Longhua, where many of the inhabitants still believe in Buddhism. There are presently 50 or so lay Buddhist nuns in Longhua, most of them having returned home after being converted to Buddhism in monasteries elsewhere. They get together on the first and 15th days of each lunar month on Baxian Hill to perform devotions to the Buddha.

At dawn on the first day of the month, I joined these women on their pilgrimage up the flagstone staircase to the top of the hill. Each carried incense in a satchel and an oil-pot in her hands. On the way they stopped at each of the dozen Guanyin shrines to pay homage by chanting the Song of the Goddess of Mercy and burning incense and paper money. The old idols in these shrines have long been damaged and replaced with new ones made of either mud or wood: as images derived from the devotees' own interpretations of the goddess, they look rather lovable despite the crude workmanship. Looking down from halfway up the hill, I saw the water of the green and yellow "dragons" gleaming in the sun. Longhua is, indeed, a well-situated and charming town.

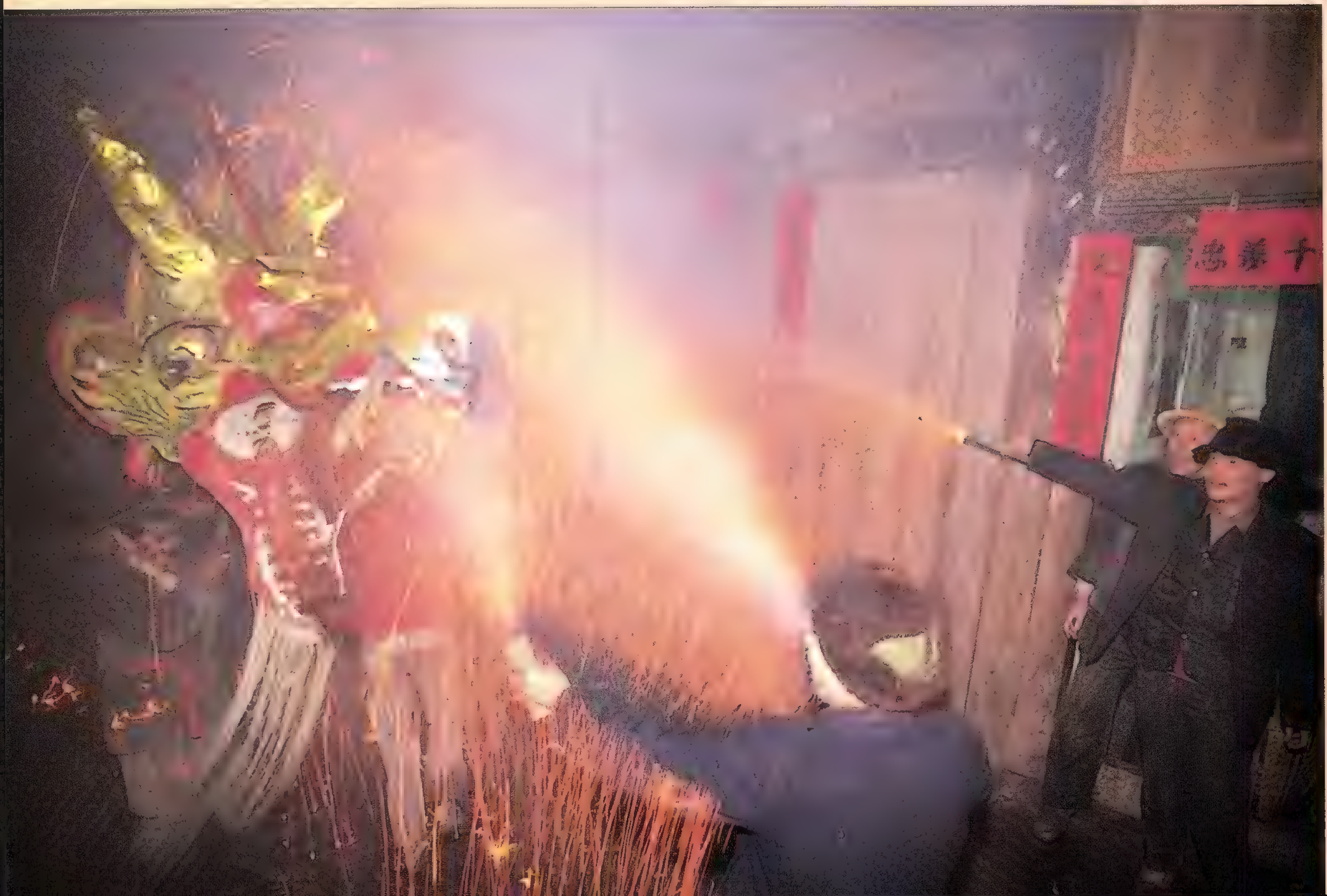
Going past the last shrine of the Goddess of Mercy and through an archway, I came face to face with a statue of Amitabha, whose mighty 32-metre-tall image was carved into the face of a cliff. Nobody knows when this Buddha was sculpted, but the chisel work on its surface has long lost its sharpness and it shows signs of severe weathering.

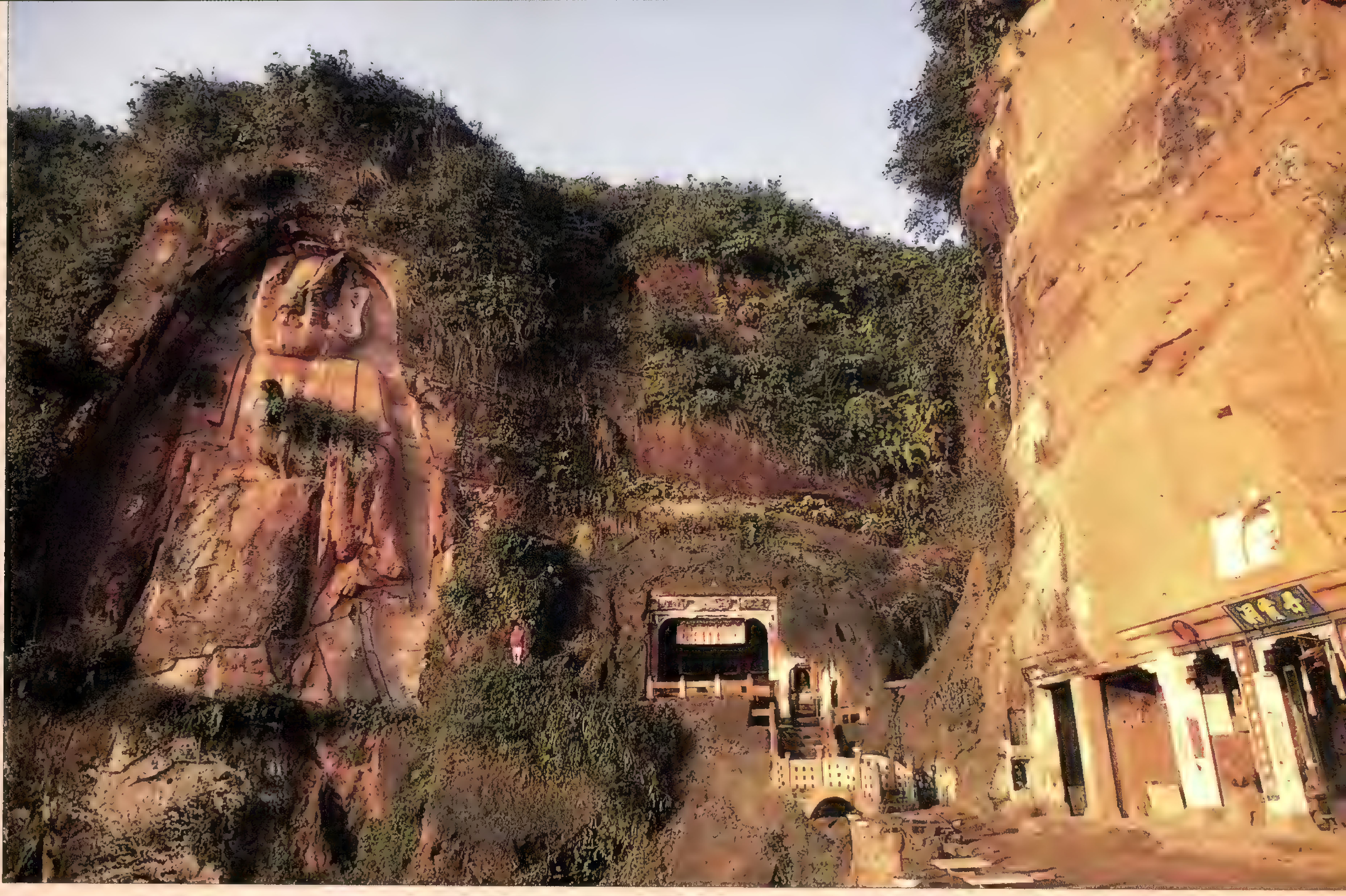
A short distance from the giant Amitabha, the cliff surface tapers into the Cave of Rosy Clouds. Dug in 1786 by a Taoist named Ma, the cave has eight chambers which have become sites for local Buddhists who meet here on the 19th day of the sixth lunar month for a religious ritual dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy.

By now the number of pilgrims on the hill had swelled to hundreds. With burning incense and paper money in hand, some asked for miraculous cures for various ailments. Wives kowtowed piously in the hope that they would soon become pregnant with a son. There were also those who came to ask for forgiveness and atone for their sins. Soon the place was drowned in a litany of prayers asking for the Buddha's blessing.

Translated by Ling Yuan

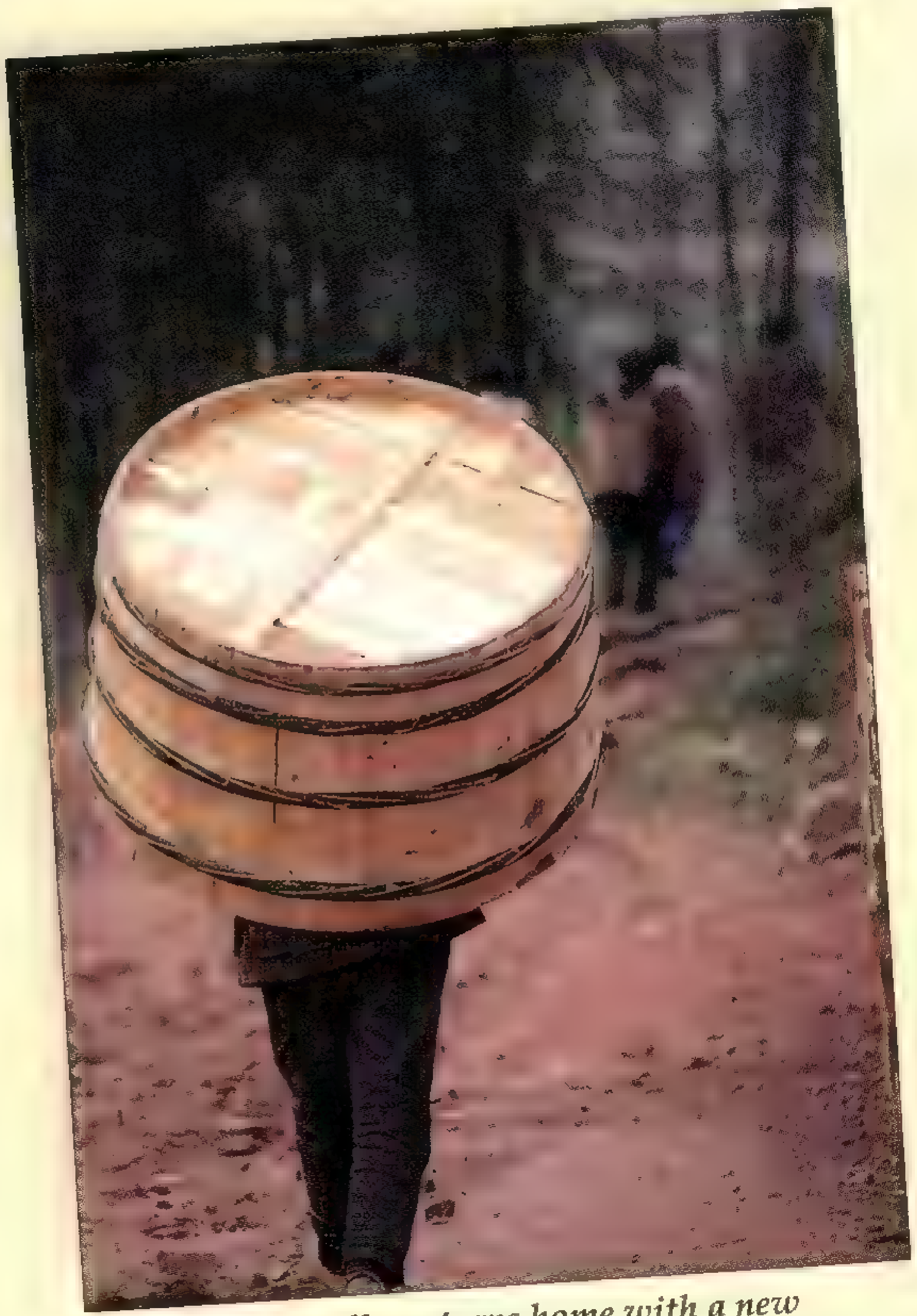
Burning an effigy of a "fire dragon" on the 15th day of the first lunar month is a custom in Longhua to pray for a happy New Year (by Chen Wei).





The Cave of Rosy Clouds is dwarfed by the colossal sculpture of Amitabha carved into the face of the same cliff (by Chen Wei).

Pilgrims on their way up the mountain for a religious ceremony dedicated to Amitabha stop at a tiny Goddess of Mercy shrine (by Chen Wei).



A Longhua dweller returns home with a new purchase from the local market: an unusually large wooden bucket (by Chen Jin).

According to local custom, a bridegroom should be first "crowned" before he is permitted to bring his bride home (by Chen Jin).

Tianlongshan and Longshan Grottoes: Survivors of Turmoil and the Elements

PHOTOS BY SHAN XIAOGANG ARTICLE BY BAO JIU

If one mentions grottoes in Shanxi Province, the name that springs to most people's minds is the Yungang Grottoes in the city of Datong. However besides these, there are two other places in Shanxi that have equally impressive grotto art: the Tianlong and Longshan Mountains, situated in the suburbs of Taiyuan, the provincial capital.

Cave No. 8 of the Tianlongshan Grottoes (1). This Buddha image is the most well-preserved of all the sculptures in the Tianlongshan Grottoes (2). The Tang-dynasty stone sculptures in Cave No. 9 of the Tianlongshan Grottoes portray the images of Sakyamuni and his disciples (3). The head of this Goddess of Mercy, with ten tiny heads protruding from her skull, is actually a reproduction of the original head (4).

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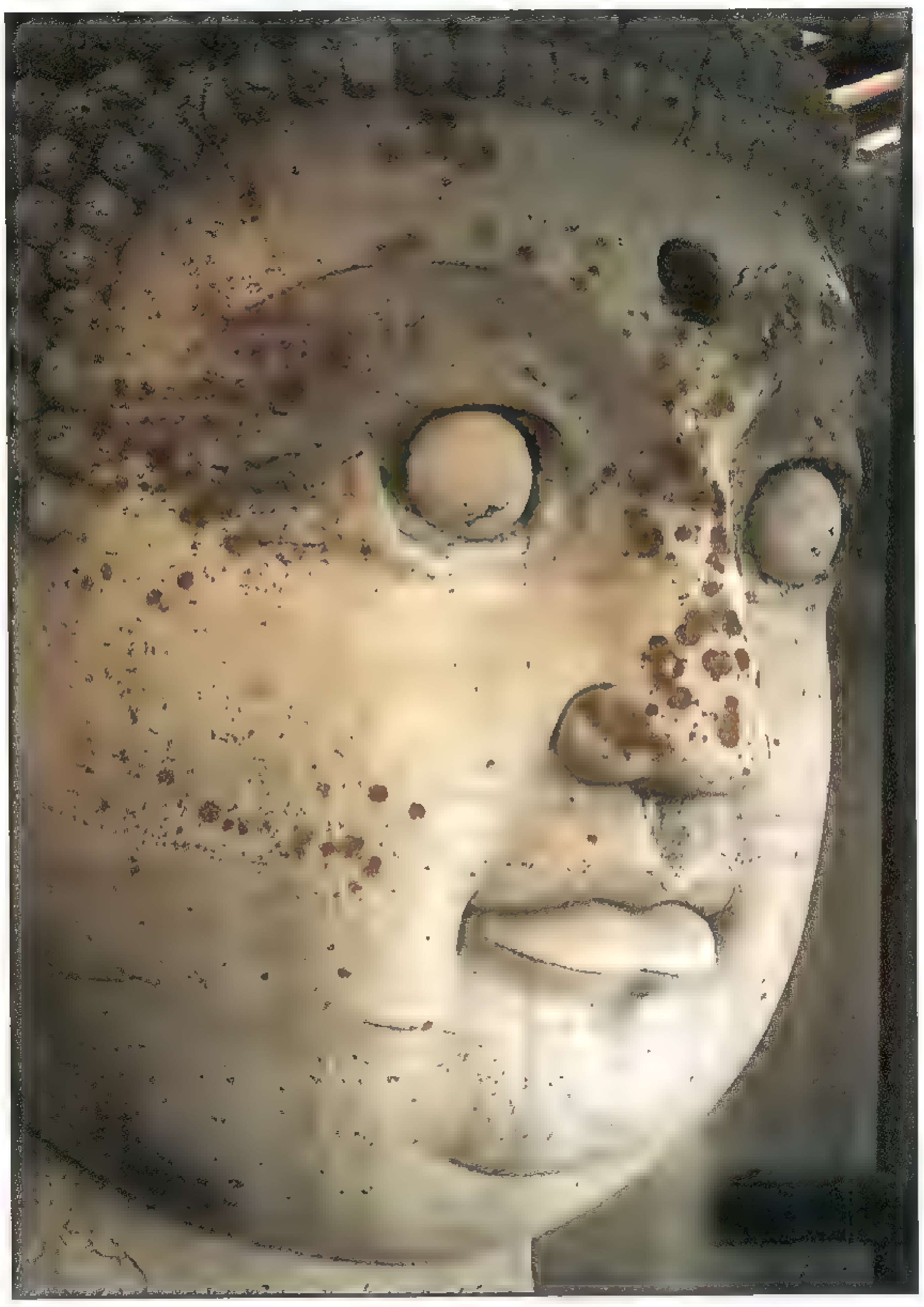
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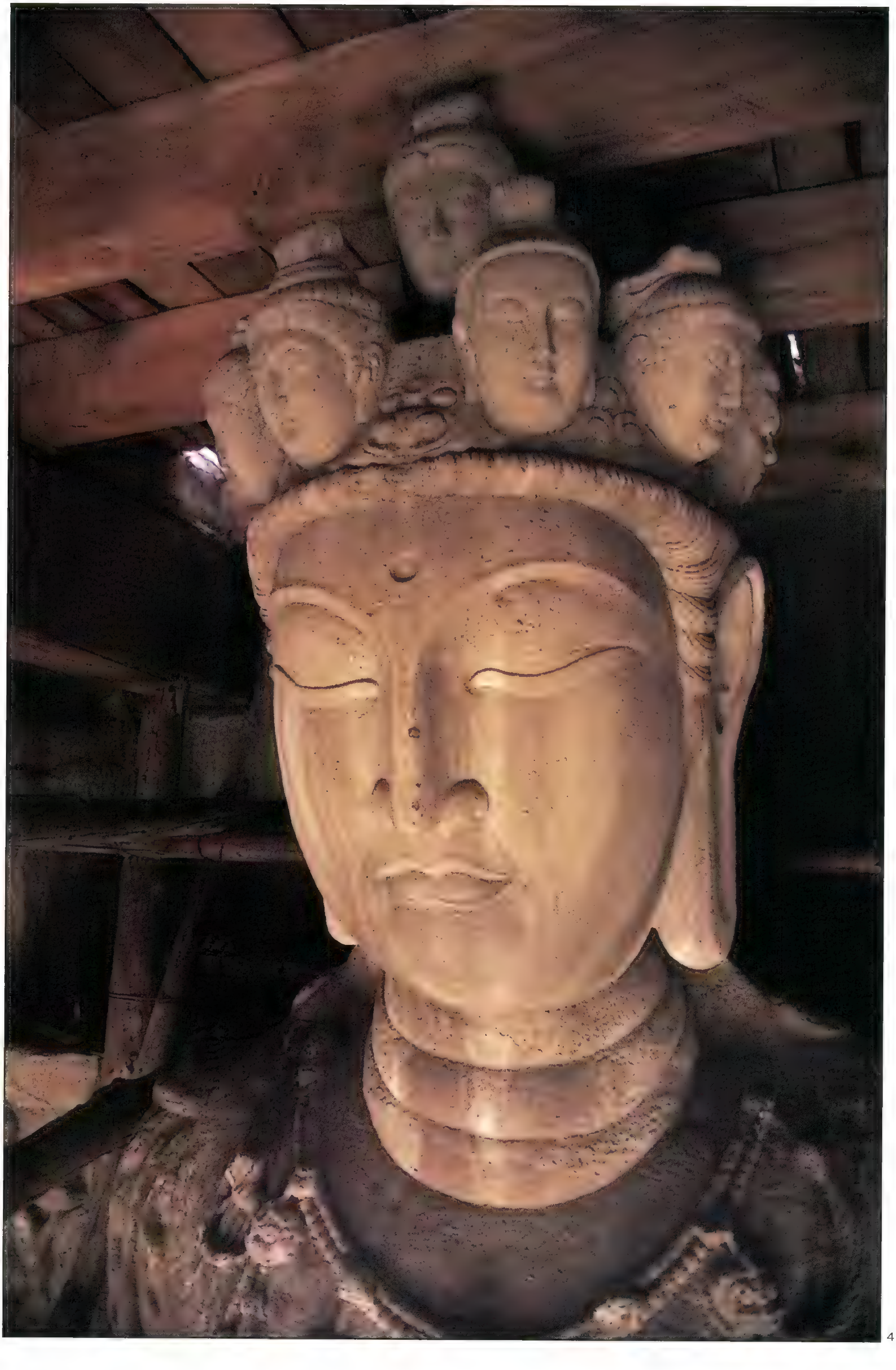

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The intertwined branches of the ancient pine tree in front of Tianlong Temple are propped up by 27 steel rods (1). Tianlong Mountain is frequented by sightseers from Taiyuan, who come here for a day of fun (2). Legend says that this is a reproduction of the "iron boat" which the Goddess of Mercy used to save the multitudes from the Sea of Misery (3). A new and brightly painted statue of the Goddess of Mercy in Tianlong Temple (4). Tianlong Temple is now being refurbished (5).

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The Tianlongshan Grottoes, Built 1,400 Years Ago

It was a fine autumn day when I went on a tour of Tianlong Mountain, just 40 kilometres southwest of Taiyuan. Having passed Jinci Temple, our bus started spiralling uphill. Half an hour later we got out of the bus and went down a long stairway of over 1,000 stone steps. On both sides the leaves of the trees had turned crimson and yellow.

We soon found ourselves standing in front of an ancient pavilion, whose square roof was propped up by four pillars. Two stone tablets stood under the roof, and the fading inscriptions on them indicated that the pavilion used to be part of a summer palace belonging to Gao Huan, a mighty official of the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589). The palace is no more. Only a solitary pine tree about 1,000 years old is still there, whose thick foliage shuts out the sun and throws a great patch of shade on the ground.

Past the ruins of the summer palace the road forks: To the right is the Western Peak and to the left the Eastern Peak. All the Buddhist grottoes are found midway up the cliffs between these two peaks.

Cave No. 9, hemmed in between the two peaks, is the largest of the Tianlongshan Grottoes. At a height of 20 metres, the cave was dug in the late Tang Dynasty (618-907). A wall and roof were built at the entrance to protect the stone sculptures and carvings inside from the rain and wind. The space inside was so cramped my neck ached as I looked up at the main statue of the Buddha, but a wooden ladder enabled me to climb up the wall and observe the minute details of the carvings and engravings.

The upper level of the cave is taken up by a sculpture of Sakyamuni in a sitting position. Though his right hand is missing, the 8.8-metre-tall statue is nevertheless the most well-preserved piece of circular carving in the Tianlongshan Grottoes. A richly carved robe covers part of his chest, and his hairstyle is in a high spiralling coil typical of Indian Buddha images. The nose of the statue, however, is flat and more closely resembles that of a Chinese.

Right below the Buddha statue are sculptures of Avalokitesvara (the Goddess of Mercy), Manjusri and Samantabhadra, all done in detailed imagery. The Goddess of Mercy stands nine metres tall, and has the physique of a voluptuous woman whose soft, graceful contours are accentuated by the flowing lines and folds of her robe. Sadly, her original head was stolen and has since been replaced by a modern duplication.

The Craftsmanship of Ancient Artists

The elephant that Samantabhadra is seated upon is itself a rare work of art. An anonymous artist, showing great imagination, cast the animal in a masculine image, whose face smiles in a most relaxed and contented way. Using nothing but a chisel, the artist was able to infuse life and personality into a piece of otherwise lifeless stone.

The figurines in Caves No. 1, 2, 3 and 10 range from about 30 centimetres to several metres in height. Each has a different facial expression, but they all look equally realistic and lifelike. Even the rows of figurines carved in relief that cover the walls are wrought with such wonderful precision no trace of chiselling work can be seen, despite the fact that each measures only a few centimetres tall. These four caves were built 1,400 years ago under the supervision of Gao Huan and his son, Gao Yang, who later became Emperor Wenxuan of the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-577). The sculptures of seated Buddhas done during this period are characterized by gaunt faces with bitter and woeful expressions.

Caves No. 8 and 16 came into shape during the period when Yang Guang, at first a simple garrison commander in Jinyang (present-day Taiyuan), became founding emperor Yangdi of the Sui Dynasty (581-618). The figures done during this period look withdrawn and apathetic compared with the pained facial expressions of the Northern Qi images; it was not until the Tang Dynasty that sculptures of human beings took on a more contented look.

Altogether 15 grottoes, including Cave No. 9 which is the largest on Tianlong Mountain, date back to the Tang Dynasty. A veritable treasure-house of exquisitely made Buddhist statues with great aesthetic value, these caves fell prey to both pillage and vandalism. During the 1920s, Western antique dealers working in collaboration with corrupt monks took away statues of the Buddha and the head of the Goddess of Mercy, tore down the richly decorated caissons, stripped the engravings of flying apsaras and flowers from the stone walls and shipped their loot overseas to foreign lands.

The cliffs between the two peaks are strewn with grottoes of different sizes, all built one on top of the other. In one place I saw caves connected with each other stretching for some 1,400 metres. Some of the caves used to be linked up by plank walkways suspended on the cliffs; today the planks have been replaced by trails hewn into the rock surface to accommodate ever larger numbers of tourists.

Though not as large and well-preserved as the Yungang Grottoes in Datong or the Longmen Grottoes in Henan Province's city of Luoyang, the Tianlongshan Grottoes deserve careful study for their artistic and historical value.

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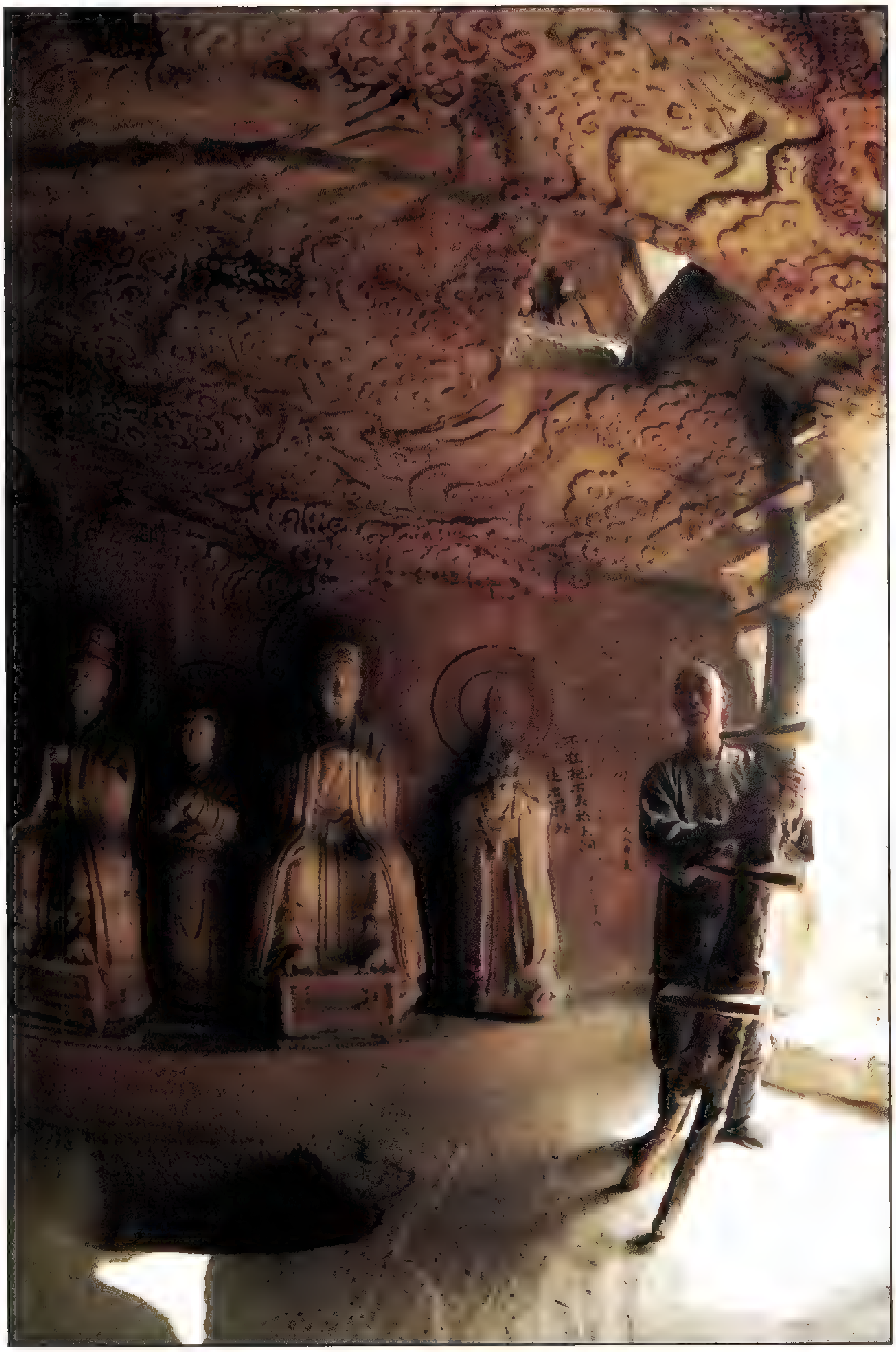
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Tianlong Temple Destroyed by Fire

Tianlong Temple is nestled behind a grove of luxuriant pine trees just down the road from the grottoes. Built by Gao Huan and his son 1,400 years ago, it was once an imposing complex of temples, halls, pavilions and terraces. Unfortunately, a large fire that broke out during a war in 1946 reduced the structures to debris.

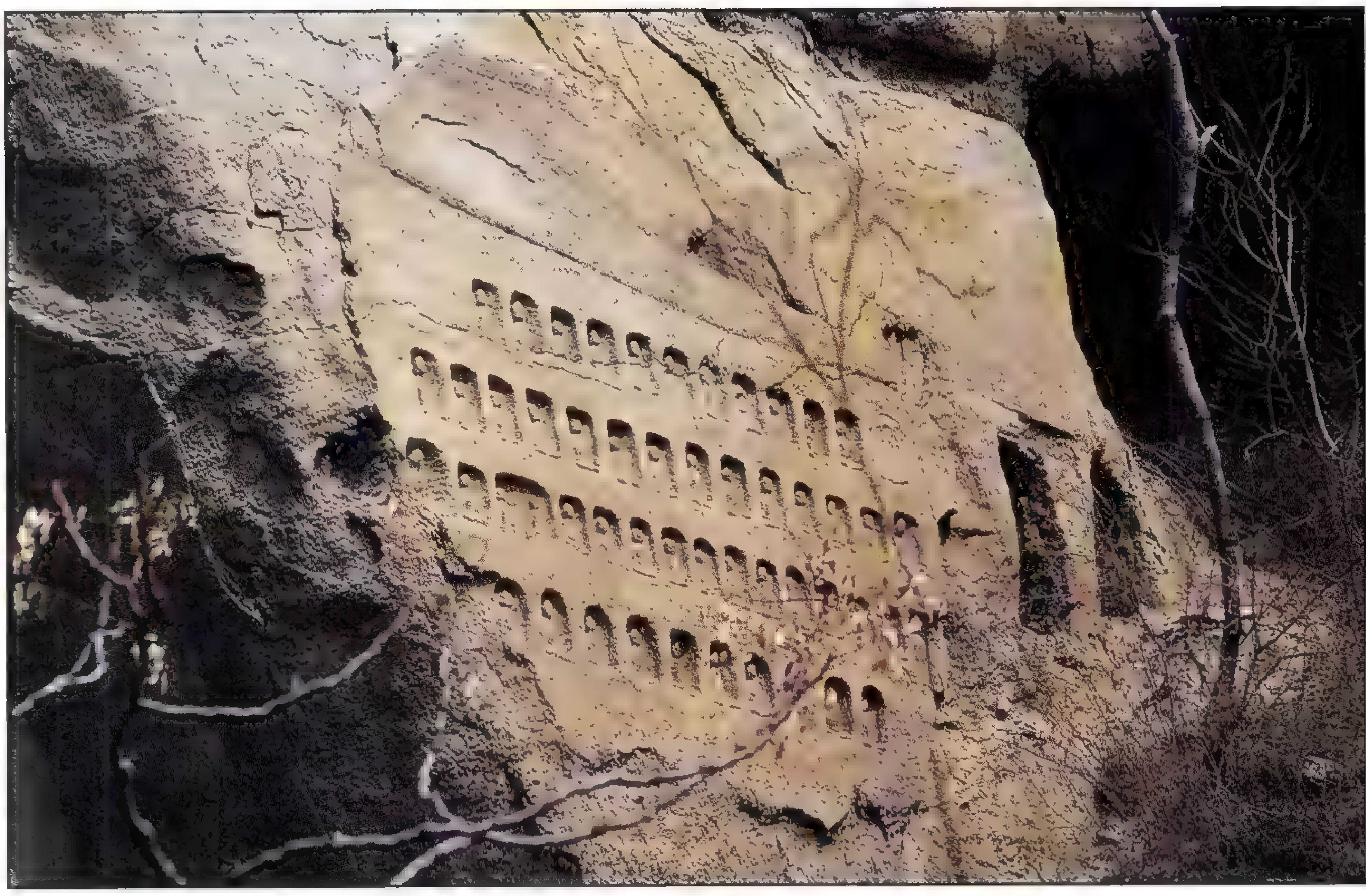
In front of the newly built archway leading from the temple to the mountain stands an ancient pine tree, whose coiled and gnarled branches form an overhead canopy covering an area of 200 square metres. Two Buddhist guardians carved during the Tang Dynasty stand sentinel over the archway. Their faces were disfigured by the fire over four decades ago, but their stout bodies retain the swaggering air of warriors.

Tianlong Temple is no longer the major religious sanctuary in Shanxi it used to be before it was damaged in the war. The scene is now dominated by imitation structures, the only touch of authenticity being an ancient structure transplanted onto what was formerly the foundation of the Mahavira Hall.

In the front courtyard of the hall I noticed a cast-iron box in the shape of a boat, its sides engraved with figurines. A label stated that it was a likeness of the iron boat the Goddess of Mercy used to deliver the multitudes from the Sea of Misery. The Scripture Shrine, Nine Lotus Cave and the Tower of a Thousand Buddhas that once stood behind Tianlong Temple have long since disappeared. They, too, were levelled to the ground in the war in 1946.

The Bell Tower was reconstructed to house a bell dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The local people regard the bell as something sacred, though bells are common to every Chinese temple. This is because of a legend which says that the bell is the "husband" of its counterpart in Jinci Temple 15 kilometres away. Whenever the former is struck, its "wife" chimes in as if in

2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It is only by this ladder that the visitor can reach Xuhuang Shrine (1). This massive rock complex is where the Taoist Longshan Grottoes are located (2). Small Buddhas are carved in shallow niches under what used to be a colossal sculpture of the Buddha, situated behind Tongzi Temple (3). The front hall of Xuhuang Shrine (4) open communion with her "husband", and vice versa. When this happens, dark clouds accumulate in the sky and it begins to rain heavily. For this reason the local people have never experienced drought.

Ruins of the Tongzi Temple

After descending Tianlong Mountain and turning south towards Xizhen Town, I walked for about three kilometres and then started up the stone path to Longshan Mountain. Longshan Mountain used to be a sanctuary of Taoism, though in its earlier days it was entirely Buddhist. At the top of the mountain, the Tongzi (Boy) Temple lies in ruins as a result of repeated wars, beginning with the war between the Song and Jin dynasties in the 12th century.

On a cliff nearby I noticed a stone carving of what looked like a broken pillar more than 10 metres tall. A closer look revealed it to be the leg of a colossal standing Buddha which, judging from the length of the leg, could have been as tall as 50 metres. Much further up the cliff I saw the vestiges of a huge ear. If the loose, sandy cliff had not succumbed to the ravages of wind and rain, the Buddha would still be standing intact, and would be comparable to the gigantic Buddha sculpture in Leshan in Sichuan Province.

The small Buddhist figurines that remain on the cliff surface in bas-relief have distinctive features, such as slender bone structure and thin faces typical of the artistic style of the Northern Qi Dynasty.

A beacon tower stands in front of the Tongzi Temple, the most valuable and complete relic here. It is a four-metre-tall, six-sided stone carving poised on a pedestal which depicts an image of six warriors straining to hold their burden up. I was told that it was 1,400 years old, the oldest of its kind in existence in China today.

The Taoist Longshan Grottoes

Leaving the crumbling remains of the Tongzi Temple, I picked my way through a field of wild grass to go and have a look at the Longshan Grottoes. These Taoist grottoes were built in the early Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Eight cave-shrines are arranged in a row on a protruding boulder at the crest of the mountain.

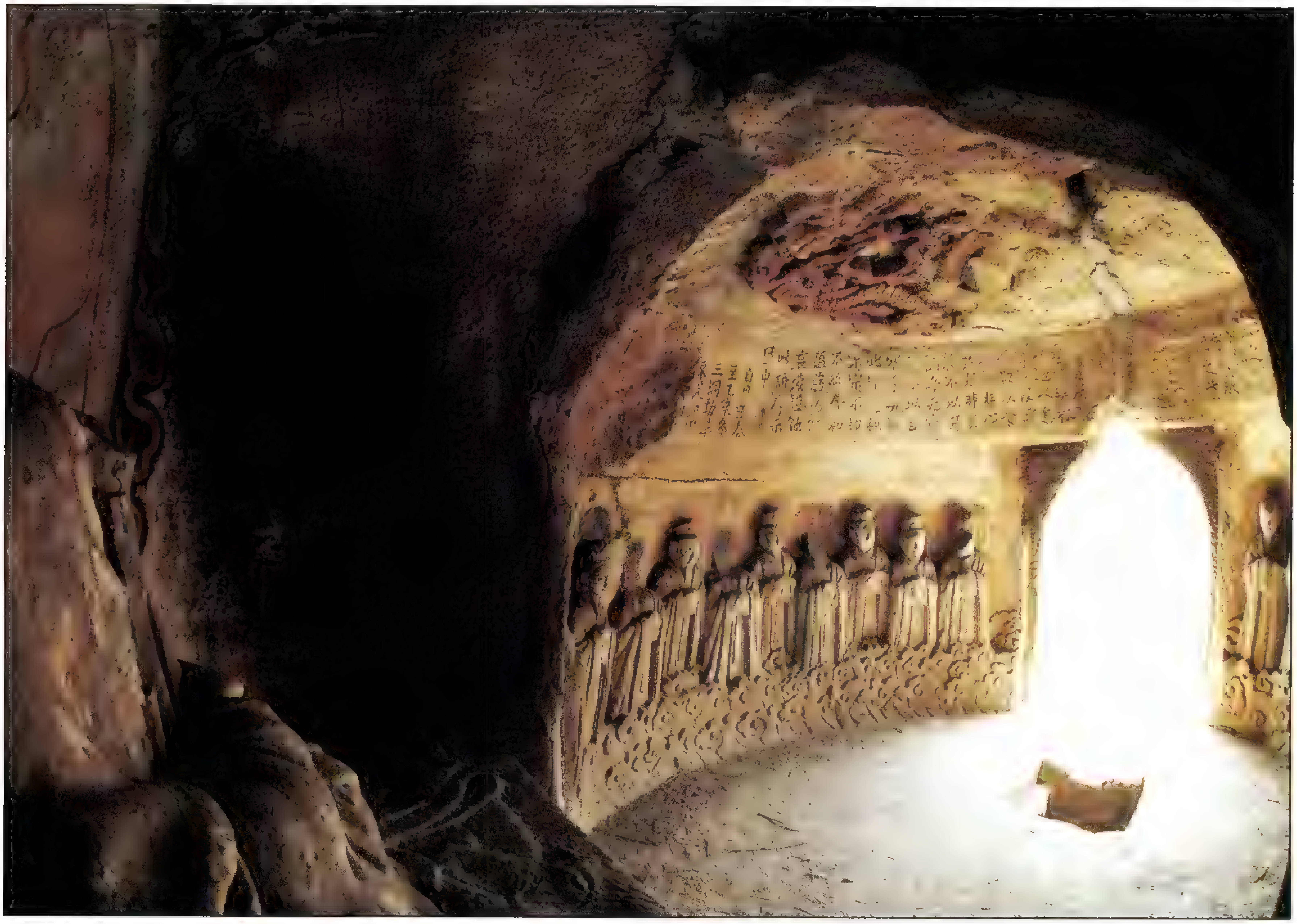
The easternmost cave, known as the Shrine of Seven Sages, is dedicated to the worship of seven disciples of Wang Chongyang, the man who established Taoism as a religion. Each disciple was the creator of a new Taoist sect, so the door to the shrine is inscribed with four Chinese characters which read "the Fathers of Taoism". Antique hunters, who ironically showed the least respect for these sages, decapitated them all and took the heads away, robbing people of later generations of the chance to see what these sages might have really looked like.

In these caves I also saw statues of other Taoist immortals. Many of the niches are decorated with exquisite engravings, reminders of Taoism's former status and its high artistic achievements.

Interestingly, this Taoist sanctuary is currently in the hands of two Buddhist monks: Not a single Taoist can be found here. One of the monks is a permanent mountain recluse. Apart from his daily routine of solitary meditation and Buddhist chanting, he is also charged with the task of protecting the cultural relics of these Taoist caves. His companion is an itinerant monk who found the place so tranquil that he decided to stay for a year or so in retreat.

As I wandered down the mountain I noticed a number of colourful slips of paper pasted onto the tree trunks along the paths. Written in the old monk's own handwriting, the slips urged sightseers to take care of the precious relics in the Longshan Grottoes.

Translated by Ling Yuan



4

BLACK AWNING BOATS

Shuttling Across the Waters of Shaoxing

TEXT BY SHAO XINGREN

A "pedal boat" in Shaoxing (by Wang Miao)

The ancient city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province has long been famed for its abundance of crisscrossing rivers and waterways. Plying these waters are the black awning boats characteristic of this region, quietly shuttling back and forth with the mist-shrouded landscape as backdrop.

This rather unique form of transport has two upturned ends and a cabin which is covered by a semi-circular roof made of woven bamboo strips that are then painted black. The roof consists of five sections, three sections being fixed and the other two movable. These can be slid back so that passengers can stand up in the cabin to get a better view of the surroundings; if it rains the sections are simply slid back into place.

The cabin is just wide enough to fit a square table with four people sitting round it. When you sit down the awning is only a couple of inches away, giving you a safe, warm feeling as the boat gently glides along the water, with the sky and the hills keeping pace.

There are actually three different kinds of black awning boats, categorized according to how they are propelled: by poles, by oars, or by oars that are manoeuvred by the legs — this last type having the local name of "pedal boats". These boats are what link up the dozens of villages and towns that comprise the city of Shaoxing. A far cry from gaily-painted pleasure boats or sleek yachts, they are nonetheless symbols of the city's simple and hardworking people.

Black awning boats have been in existence for a very long time. It is said that when King Yu, the legendary first king of the Xia Dynasty (c. 21st-16th century B.C.), came to the area during his famous flood-control campaign, he used one of these boats as transport. At that time, all the areas south of the lower half of the Yangtse River, includ-

Black awning boats in a rowing race (by Pan Honghai)

A black awning boat glides across a still lake (by Wang Miao).

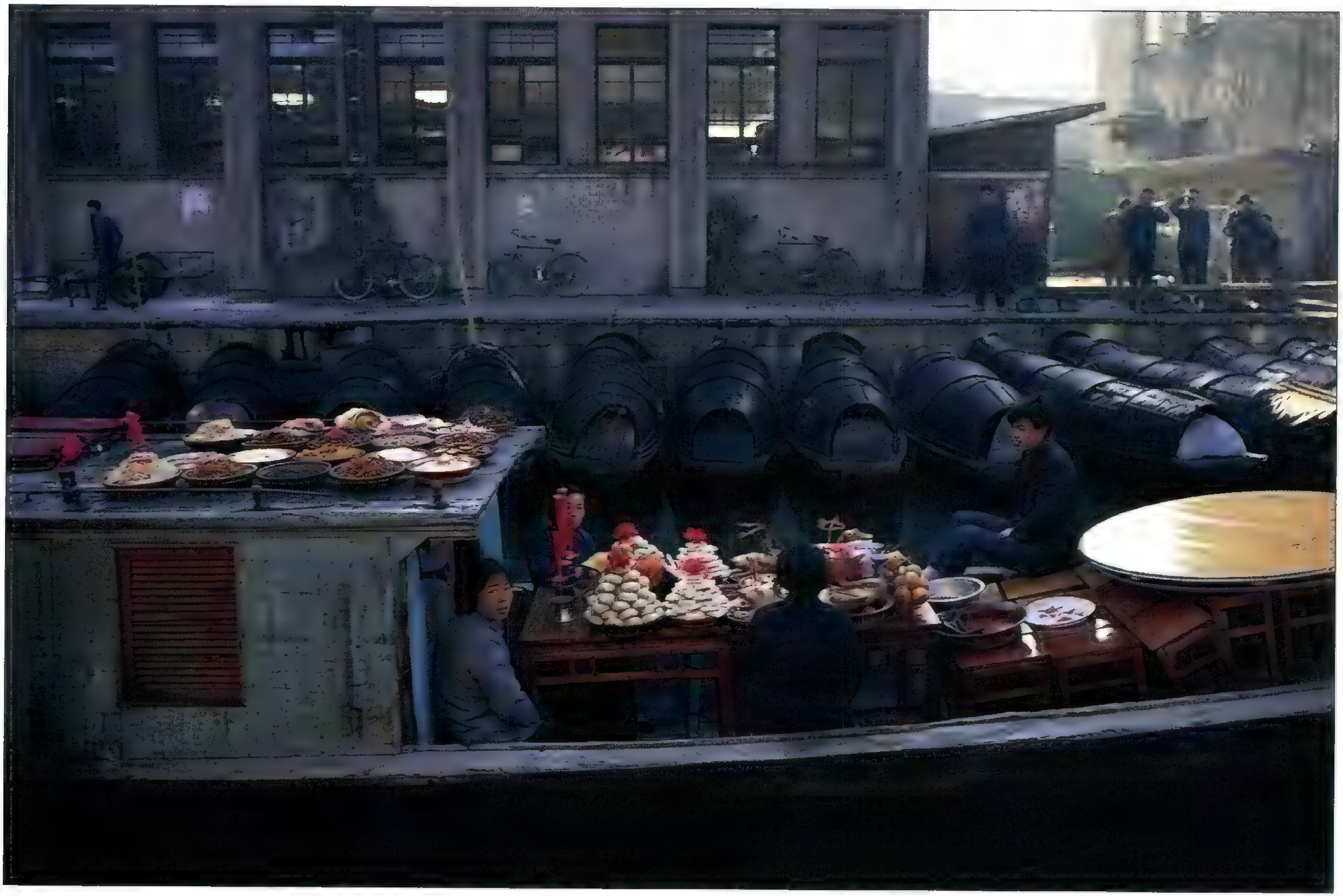
The black parasols used on the boats need regular maintenance (by Qu Yongkang).

ing Shaoxing, were inundated by floods, and the little boat did a marvellous job quickly taking King Yu on an inspection of the flooded regions. One could perhaps even say that the black awning boat contributed to King Yu's success in controlling the floods.

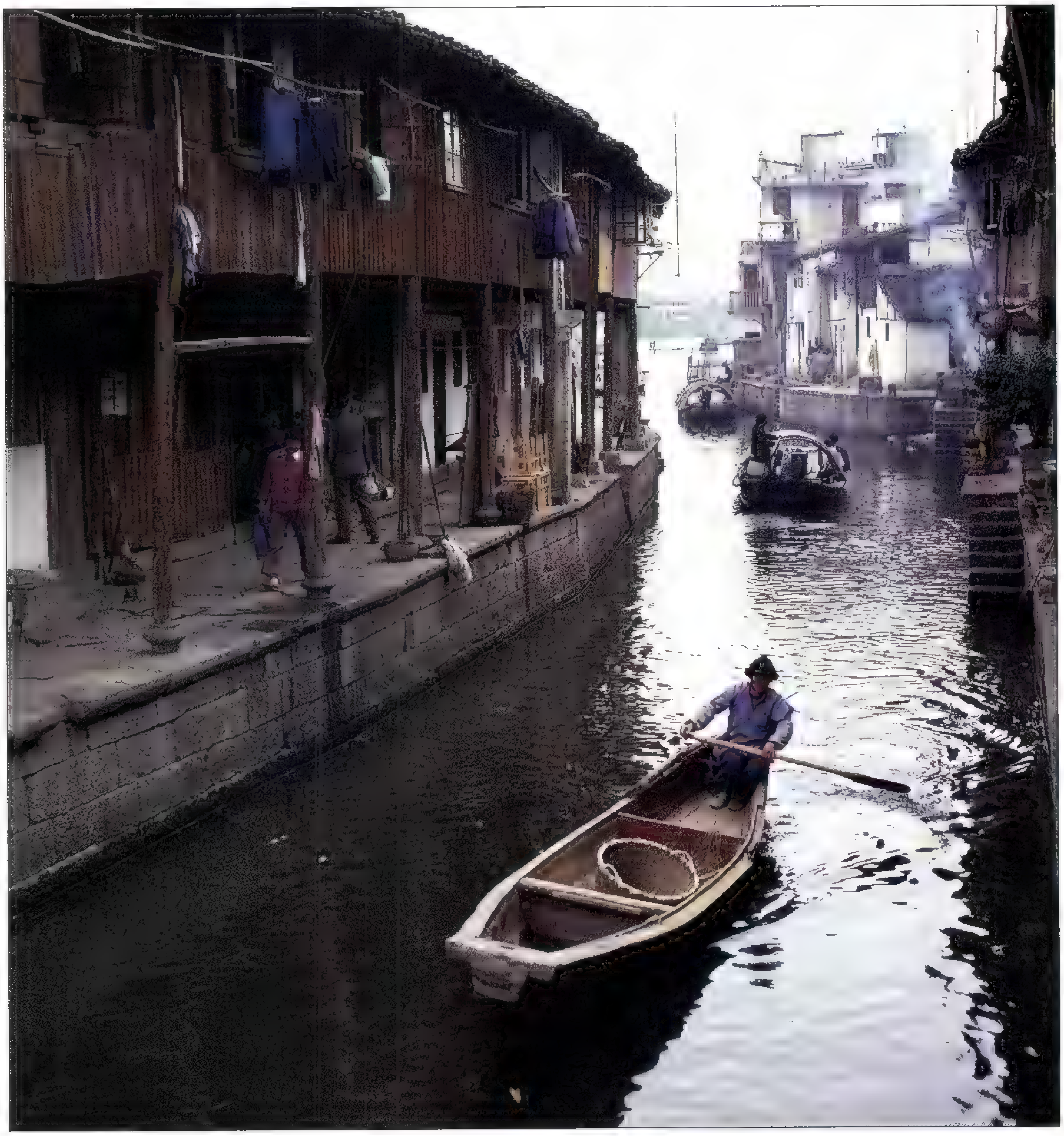
Since water runs in front of most houses in Shaoxing, nearly every household, especially those of farming families, owns a black awning boat. They can be seen everywhere, moored at village entrances or beside a house. The boat acts something like a private car or bus which takes people to work, to school, to the fields, downtown and to market or to visit friends and relatives. In addition, the boats can be used to take visitors on a leisurely cruise to see the scenery and ancient sites that dot the shorelines.

Every day, in the early morning or evening, all the boats from the various villages and towns gather at the local marketplace, which is situated along a small river. At dawn, when the place comes alive, the river itself becomes a part of the market. Countless boats pack closely together and form a cluster of buyers and sellers. Fresh fish, shrimp and vegetables are brought to shore, while brand new electrical appliances and colourful fabrics are lowered onto the boats. The teahouses and wine shops in the streets are filled with boatmen from all over the area. Taking a break from their rowing, they sip their drinks and tell stories.

The black awning boat exemplifies Shaoxing's unique "boat culture", and is used for much more than just transport, even for weddings. A wedding party on the water consists of a small fleet of gaily-decorated boats, one of which carries the musicians with their drums, gongs and other instruments. The bride and groom take up one boat and the dowry fills all the others. Standing at the bow of the main



This boat serves as a kind of floating temple, with lavish offerings to the gods (by Ren Jing).



Almost all Shaoxing people live along a waterway, therefore many have their own private form of transport to take them to market, to visit friends or anywhere else they want to go (by Yu Zhixin).

boat are large earthen jars filled with vintage Shaoxing wine and decorated with red brocade and the Chinese character "Xi", which is always seen at weddings and means "double happiness".

Besides weddings, the boats can also be used as a venue for performing arts. A few wooden boards, a brass cymbal, and the stage is set for *lianhualao,* a form of ballad-singing. Sometimes during Chinese religious festivals, local She Operas are staged at temples all along the water. The black awning boats bringing people to see the shows also double as seating for the audience, who need only sit back and listen as the soft melodies float through the evening air.

China's popular dragon boat races, usually held in June, are another occasion to use the black awning boats. Despite their smaller size, the sturdy little boats engage in races against the local dragon boats. There are, of course, also races between the black awning boats themselves, as well as activities such as diving, swimming and lifting boats out of shallow water.

Having secured a place in the history and culture of Shaoxing, the black awning boats will undoubtedly continue to play a vital role in the everyday life of the residents of this city of water.

Translated by Megina Kwan

When then boats are moored their owners can relax and chat together (by Ren Jing).

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A lakeside pavilion at Zhizhuyuan Park in Beijing (by Gao Mingyi)

Tracing the Origins of Chinese Pavilions

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY ZHU JUNZHEN

Outdoor pavilions, called *ting* in Chinese, have been in existence for well over 2,000 years and can be found in nearly every corner of the country. Being both functional and beautiful, these small structures have become an integral part of the Chinese landscape. No natural scenic spot or man-made garden is complete without at least one.

As they are small in size and flexible in their design, pavilions are both convenient and cost-effective to build. Like traditional Chinese gardens, pavilions are steeped in cultural and aesthetic traditions: in their conception, location, design and structure.

It is believed that the King of Wu, who lived during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), was the first person to apply the principle of "erecting pavilions and building bridges" when he had the Wutong (Chinese Parasol Tree) Garden and the Huijing (Sights Convergence) Garden constructed.

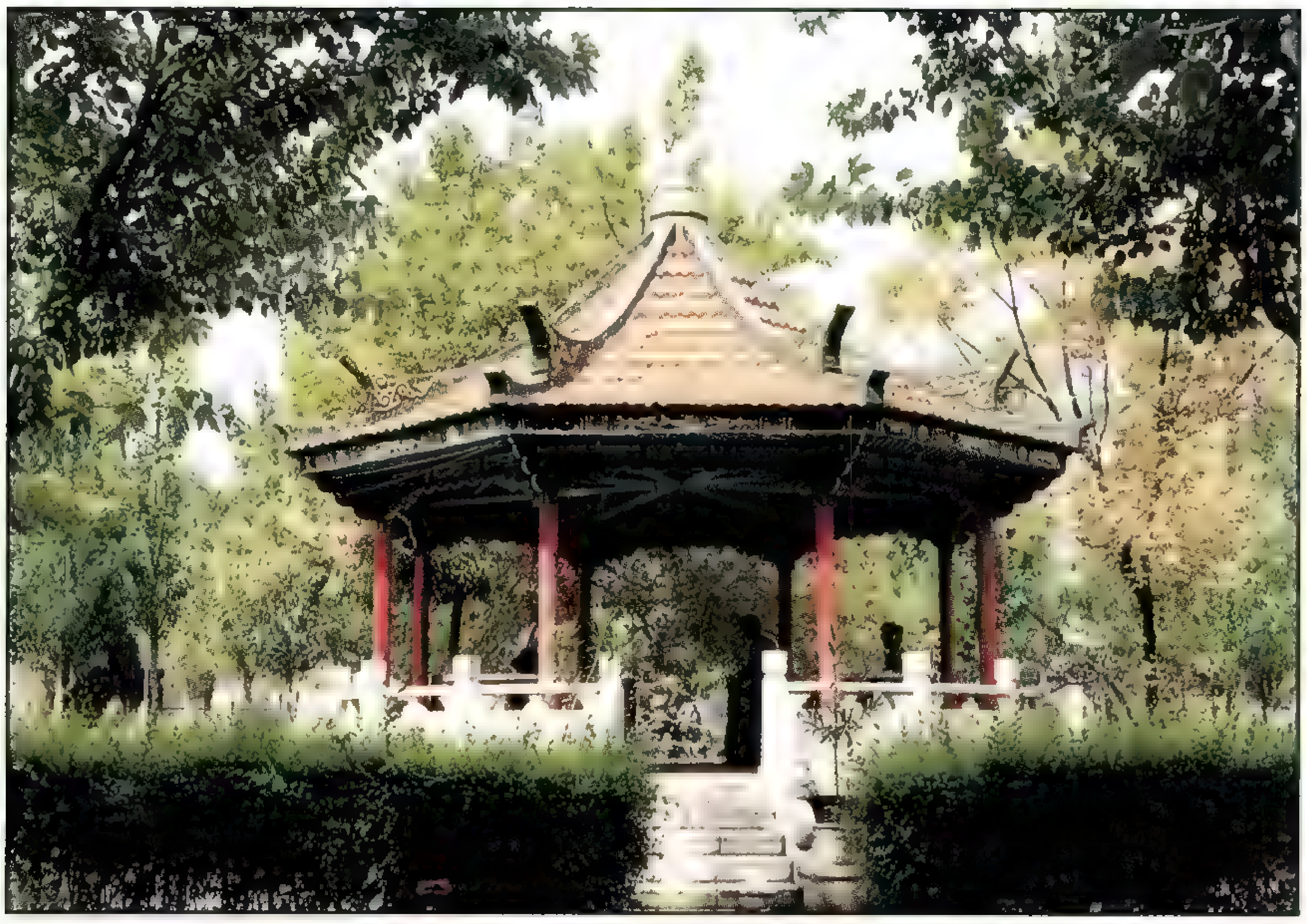
During the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), the word *ting* was the name of an administrative division below the township level. According to a chapter called "Biographies of Officials and Ministers" in the *History of the Han Dynasty*, ten *li* formed one *ting*, which was under the leadership of a chieftain, and every ten *ting* constituted a township. *Ting* was also a method of measuring distance: On trunk roads, every five *li* was marked by a pavilion. Besides being a distance marker, the purpose of these pavilions was to provide a place where travellers could get food and lodging or bid farewell to friends or family members.

According to historical records, starting in the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) "pavilion bastions" began being built in border areas or places of strategic importance. By the time of the Jin Dynasty (265-420) nature had become an object of worship, due to the influence of religion and metaphysics. In their desire to identify themselves with nature, people started building gardens as microcosms of the natural world. As a result, gardens constructed around temples and nunneries appeared, and scenic spots became more and more frequented by nature lovers.

Much has been written about pavilions in historical records that have been found in surviving Chinese gardens, but no description is more detailed than that of the Lanting (Orchid) Pavilion, which was built during the Han Dynasty but did not become well-known until the Jin Dynasty. The story goes that in the year 353, Wang Xizhi, a celebrated calligrapher and then prefect of Shanyin (present-day Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province), got together with over 40 close friends in the Lanting Pavilion. It was late spring, and as they drank one cup of wine after another, they improvised poems to entertain each other. Wang had all the poems collected, and concluded the gathering by composing a long poem entitled "Preface to the Collected Poems of Lanting Pavilion". This poem generated much publicity, thus helping to bring fame to the pavilion.

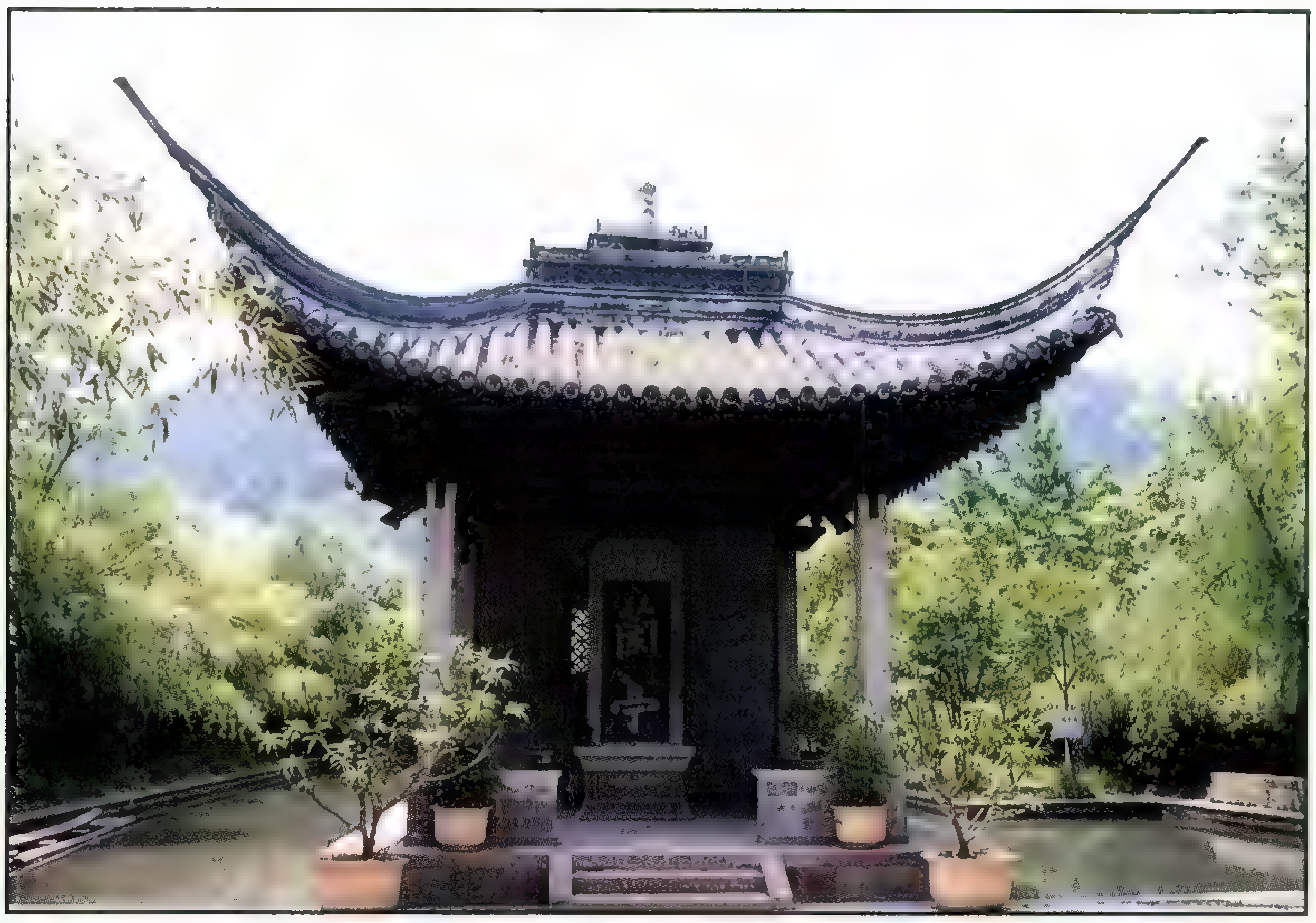
The Lanting Pavilion is actually a tiny piece of architecture situated in a garden consisting of rockwork and a number of other pavilions, such as Liushang (Flowing Winecup) Pavilion, Echi (Goose Pond) Pavilion, the Pavilion of the Emperor's Stone Tablet and the Pavilion of Exuberant Ink. The fact that Chinese gardens are often named

(Continued on page 75)



A Yuan-Dynasty Pavilion in Baotou, Inner Mongolia

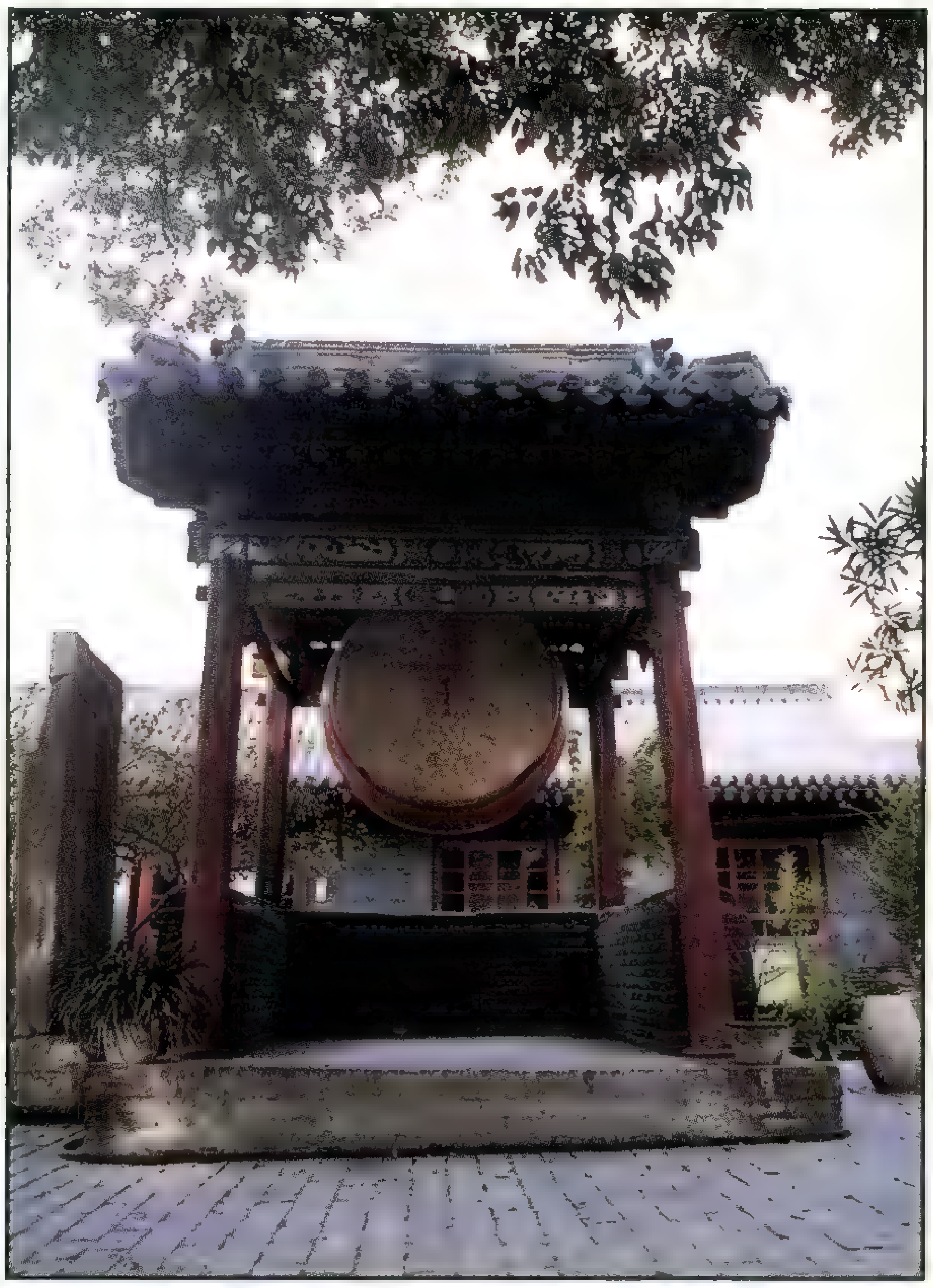
First built during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), this ancient pavilion has undergone repeated refurbishments and repairs but still retains its original structure and style. It is an imposing building, embellished with colourful and vivid wood carvings.



The Lanting (Orchid) Pavilion

There are several pavilions in China with this name: One is famous for its calligraphic work, one has the same shape as the original one, and the other has just borrowed the same name. The original Lanting Pavilion is actually a set of five pavilions, each built on a different pond and located on picturesque Lanzhu Mountain 12 kilometres from the city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province.

One of the set is called the "Lanting Pavilion with a Stone Tablet". According to the *Records of Shanyin County*, this pavilion was first built during the Jin Dynasty (265-420) up on the crest of a peak that commands a bird's-eye view of the area. During the Ming Dynasty it was moved, together with its zigzagging bridge, to the front of Tianzhang Temple. Rebuilt during the Qing Dynasty, it has a stone tablet under its roof which is inscribed with its name in Emperor Kangxi's handwriting. Featuring flying eaves with upturned corners, it is a simple structure that looks elegant and strong at the same time.

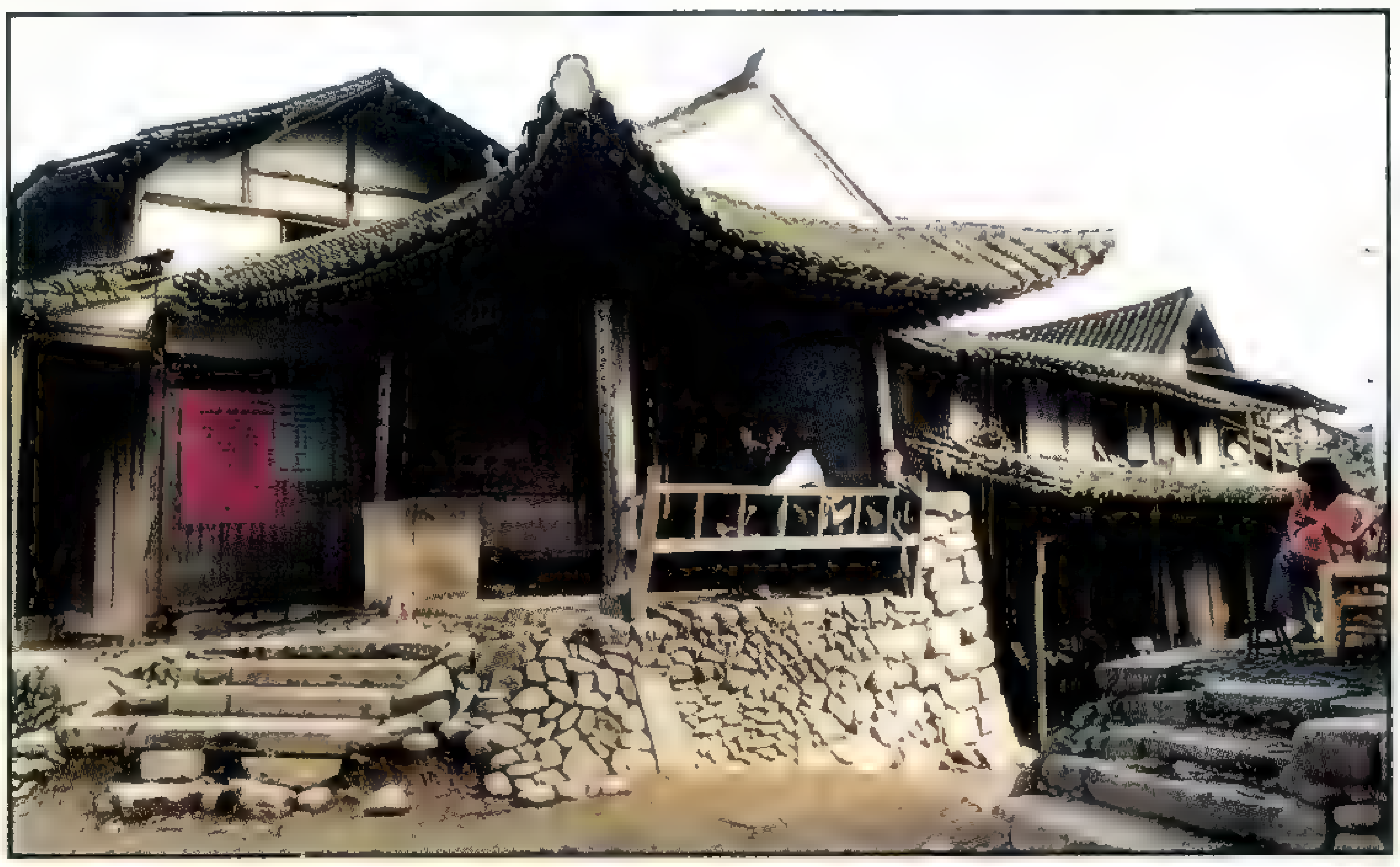


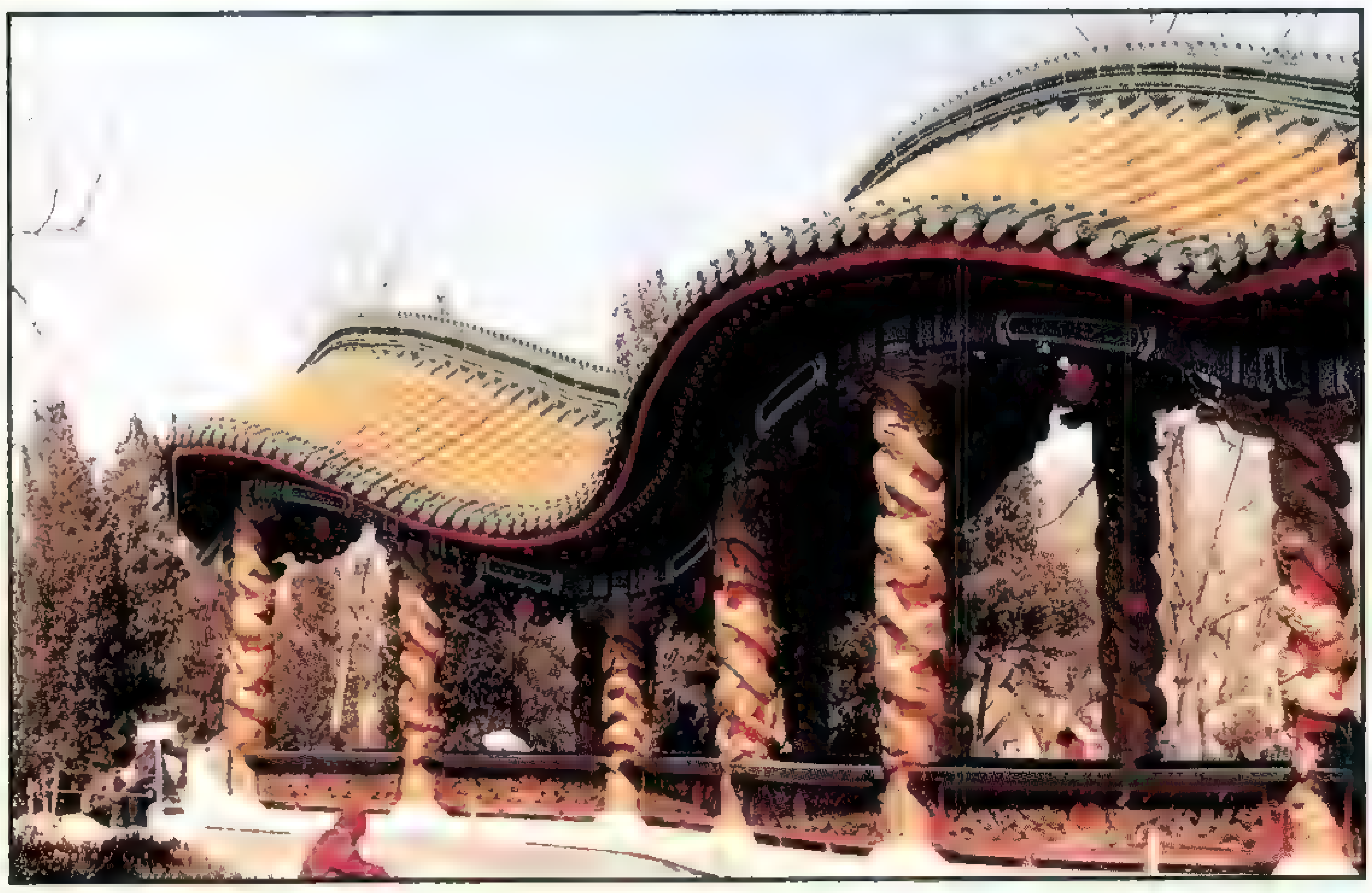
The Drum Pavilion at Chongshan Monastery in Taiyuan

The Buddhist Chongshan Monastery was built in Taiyuan in present-day Shanxi Province during the period when the Sui Dynasty was being superseded by the Tang Dynasty. True to the tradition of temple construction, the monastery has a bell pavilion and a drum pavilion for time-keeping during religious services. The bell is also used to announce the dawning of the day and the drum is beat when the day ends. Standing opposite the Bell Pavilion to the left of the Hall of Great Sorrow, the Drum Pavilion has a gabled roof in the same style as that of the double-eaved hall.

The Tea Pavilion on the Nanxi River in Zhejiang

Tradition and folklore came alive in the design of this pavilion, situated in the middle of an ancient village. A timetable written on a slip of red paper is pasted up on one of the pillars so that the villagers know whose turn it is to contribute brewed tea for travellers and passers-by. The Tea Pavilion looks exactly the same as it did when it was first built during the Ming Dynasty, despite repeated repairs in the intervening years. It is a rare example of Ming-dynasty tea pavilions.



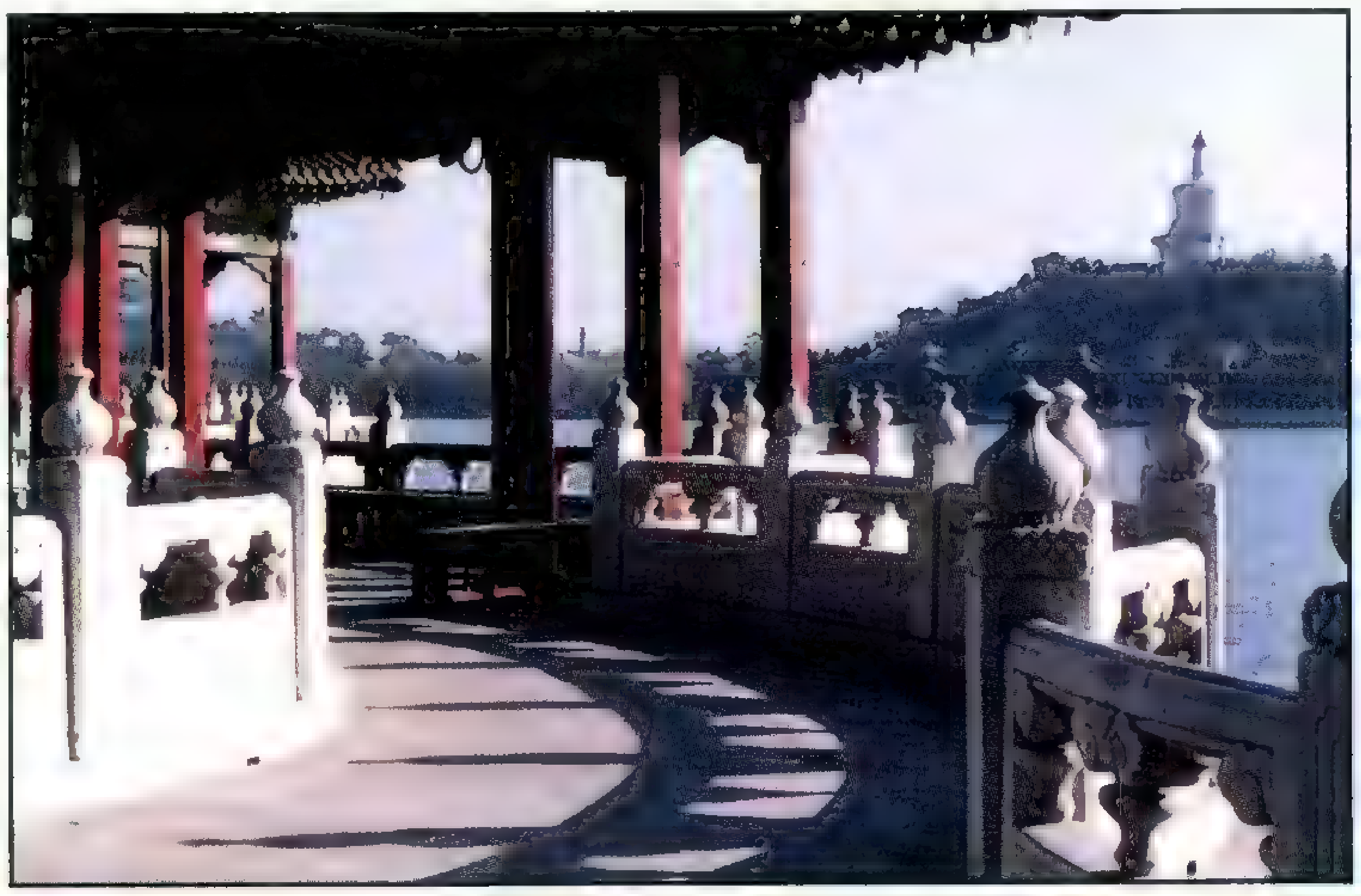


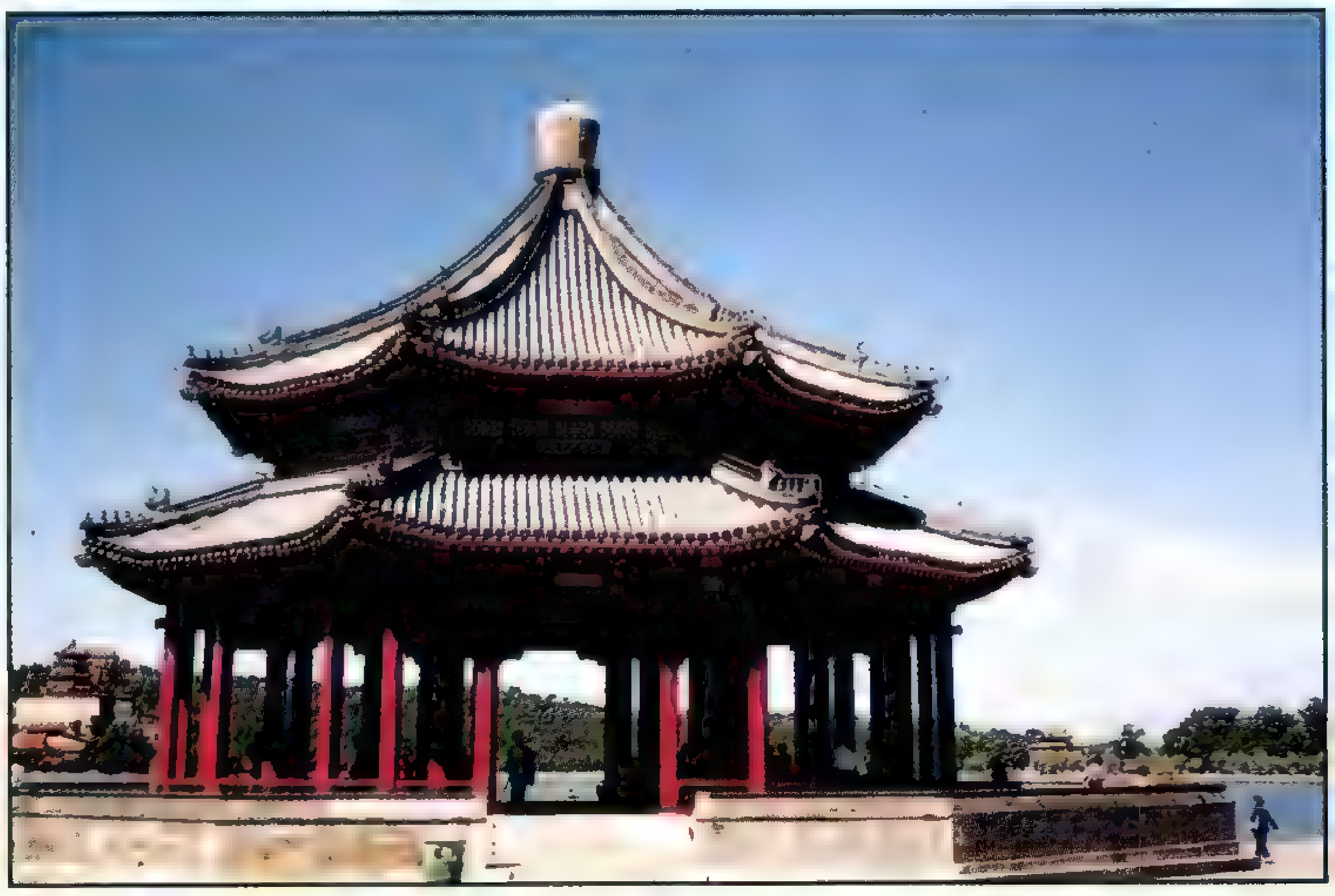
The Dragon Pavilion in Longtanhu Park in Beijing

Built in 1987 to mark the Year of the Dragon, this is an ancient-style pavilion intended as a place for residents to come to escape the summer heat. The designers eschewed the usual square, round or fan-shaped designs in favour of a pattern that uses a small square pavilion to serve as the head of the dragon and a winding corridor as the dragon's body. It has seven bays, and the entire structure is made of wood. Measuring 21 metres long, three metres wide and four metres high, its pillars and benches are decorated with 100 carved or inlaid wooden dragons. Of all the ancient-style pavilions built in recent years, the Dragon Pavilion is unique in that it is totally dedicated to representing the image of the dragon.

Yongrui — One of the Five Dragon Pavilions in Beijing's Beihai Park

To the west of the Hall of the Heavenly King on the northern shores of Beihai Park in Beijing are five pavilions connected by zigzagging corridors with white marble balustrades. The design resembles a dragon swimming in the lake, therefore the five pavilions are called the Five Dragon Pavilions. Following the principle that heaven is round and the earth square, the Longze (Dragon Pond) Pavilion in the middle of the arrangement is graced with a double-eaved round roof in the shape of an umbrella and is surrounded by rectangular terraces. The purpose of all five pavilions was to provide spots from which to fish, but only the emperor could use the round-roofed Longze Pavilion. His retinue of officials and generals were allowed to use the other four pavilions, which all have square roofs.





The Kuoru Pavilion in the Summer Palace in Beijing

This octagonal pavilion was given the name Kuoru during the reign of the Qing Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795). It sits at the eastern end of the Seventeen-Arch Bridge that spans Kunming Lake in the imperial Summer Palace, located in the western suburbs of Beijing. When it was first built the pavilion looked out over a vast expanse of paddy fields. The name Kuoru, meaning "magnanimous", is a fitting one for this marvellous natural scene. The Kuoru Pavilion is the largest of its kind in China and is also famous for being an important part of the ingeniously designed landscape of the Summer Palace.

(Continued from page 72)

after a particular pavilion shows that in the eyes of travellers and sightseers, pavilions are part and parcel of the landscape.

After the Sui Dynasty (581-618) had unified the preceding Southern and Northern Dynasties, the colossal Xiyuan Garden was built in the new capital of Luoyang. The garden's Xiaoyao Pavilion (Pavilion of Transcendental Bliss) is said to be the first of its kind built in a man-made garden. Since then pavilions have figured more prominently as scenic attractions in their own right.

The construction of imperial and private gardens reached a peak during the heyday of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and pavilions grew at an unprecedented rate, in both number and variety. According to history books, the gigantic Tang-dynasty imperial compound in present-day Xi'an featured pavilions in its Western Inner City, Eastern Inner City and Forbidden City. As ball-kicking was a popular sport during the Tang Dynasty, pavilions were built by the side of a field near the Donghai (East Sea) Pond in the Western Inner City. The Taiye (Holy Water) Pavilion was erected in Penglai Pond in the Eastern Inner City, while the Forbidden City had as many as 24 pavilions.

Apart from the Jin-dynasty Liushang type of pavilion, another type called the Ziyu (Spontaneous Rain) Pavilion, said to be introduced to the Central Plains from the Western Regions, was also popular in the Tang Dynasty. The latter type was constructed in such a way that in a heavy summer rain the water would run in curtains down the eaves of the four sides, providing both a cool and spectacular sight for those sitting under its roof.

To the east of the Dragon Pond in the Xingqing Palace is a square pavilion with double eaves and a conical rooftop. Called the Chenxiang (Eaglewood) Pavilion, as it is made from a fragrant wood from East India called eaglewood, it is at the centre of a group of structures and is enveloped by the fragrance of the many peony trees around it. Because eaglewood is a very rare and precious material, the Chenxiang Pavilion is regarded as the first luxury pavilion ever built in China.

A number of diversified pavilion designs are depicted in the Tang-dynasty murals at Dunhuang's Mogao Grottoes. They are square, hexagonal, octagonal or circular, and have roofs that are conical, gabled or double-eaved. Even more varied were the pavilions built in gardens by the Tang-dynasty literati to accentuate the charm of the natural landscape.

The Jiangshouju Garden in Shanxi's Jiangxian County, first built in 596 during the Sui Dynasty, is the oldest garden in existence in China today. Though most of it has been reduced to debris, some of the structures have been reconstructed. One of them is the Huilian (Swirling Ripples) Pavilion, which overlooks a pond that teems with lotus flowers. The others are the Wangyue (Moon Watching) Pavilion, the Cypress Pavilion, the Banyuan (Semi-Spherical) Pavilion and the New Pavilion. Pavilions like these were laid out in such a way as to reflect the beauty of the four seasons and the owner's innermost thoughts. They additionally served as resting places or for dining out with friends — in short, they were there both for their practical use and as expressions of aesthetic sentiments.

Over the centuries, the construction of pavilions was honed to an elaborate craft. In Guangxi's city of Liuzhou is one called the East Pavilion, nestled at the edge of a forest and overlooking a river. It is a typical example of how people took advantage of the contours of the land when building pavilions so as to enhance the natural scenery. Two walls protrude from both sides, blocking the view of either end of the river in order to give the impression that one is looking at a lake rather than a river.

Baodai Bridge and its stone pavilion in Suzhou (by Chan Yat Nin)

The vast Shoushan Genyu (Northeast Hill of Longevity) in Henan Province's city of Kaifeng is typical of imperial gardens constructed in the style of the Song Dynasty (960-1279). The garden is strewn with pavilions: On top of the hill is the Jieting Pavilion, and on its slope the Caoyun (Nest in the Clouds) Pavilion stands towering over the hills in the distance. Poised on a rocky ridge and beside a waterfall are the Yuanshan (Round Hill) Pavilion and the Kuayun (Astride the Clouds) Pavilion.

Located next to ponds are the Fuyang (Floating Sun) Pavilion, the Xuelang (Snow Wave) Pavilion and the Huiyu (Rain) Pavilion. Their names and the way they are laid out are expressions of the artistic tastes of the owner, who did all he could to incorporate the man-made structures into the beauty of nature. Because all private gardens built during this period were small in size, tall pavilions were added to enable people to look beyond the walls at the surrounding landscape.

There are no set rules governing the shape of a pavilion. It can be polygonal or take the shape of a cross, a plum blossom or a fan, but it should be congruous to the surroundings. Pavilions can be built anywhere — by riversides, in bamboo groves, on mountaintops, in ravines or at the foot of a hill. They can be set astride a stream or atop a grotto.

Building pavilions in clusters was yet another salient feature of traditional gardening techniques. Numerous pavilions are found in both imperial and private gardens built during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. The Imperial Mountain Resort in Hebei's Chengde City alone boasts 60-odd pavilions, and there are more than 100 such structures around West Lake in Zhejiang's Hangzhou.

Five pavilions of all different shapes dominate the scenery in Hangzhou's Santan Yinyue (Three Pools Mirroring the Moon) Park: A triangular one that resembles an open fishing net is in one corner, a square one is on a bridge, a swastika-shaped pavilion sits by the lake, a hexagonal one with a stone tablet inscribed with the emperor's own handwriting is at a road crossing, and the Pavilion of Mirroring My Heart in the Lake is situated on the southern tip of the park.

Chinese gardening techniques reached maturity during the Qing Dynasty, when pavilions not only achieved new dimensions in their form, structure, layout and function, but also were endowed with profound aesthetic meaning. They became, and still remain, a unique cultural phenomenon in the Chinese art of landscaping and gardening.

Translated by Ling Yuan

The Clay Fertility Figures of Henan

PHOTOS BY ER DONG QIANG
& CHAN YAT NIN
TEXT BY HUA NIAN

On any given day of the week, working days as well as holidays, you will find the people of Nanyang and Zhoukou in Henan Province creating rustic-looking yet colourful clay toys. Children, who like to play with them, call them "Nini Gou" (clay puppy) since most of these moulded figures are in the shape of a dog or other small animal. Some of them also have small holes and can be used as whistles.

Not all the clay moulded figures are toys for children, however: some are made as sacrificial offerings to be taken to the Taihaoling Mausoleum dedicated to Fuxi in Huaiyang to solicit blessings or render thanks to Fuxi for favours received. Chinese people believe that Fuxi was the progenitor of the human race, and legend has it that after the marriage of Fuxi and Nüwa, Nüwa began to mould human beings out of clay, and ever since mankind has continued to multiply. It is based on this legend that moulding clay figures is practised to this day.

These figures often feature conspicuous reproductive organs and some are portrayed in the actual act of conjugation. One can also find sets of twins and half-human, half-animal figures. Such creations are expressions of the artists' hopes for abundant progeny and livestock.

As Fuxi is regarded as the deity in charge of birth, it is said that if those wishing to have a child take home a clay figure which has been previously enshrined at the Fuxi Mausoleum, their wish will be granted. After they have a child, they are expected to mould or buy a new clay figure and take it to the mausoleum as a way of fulfilling their duty and expressing thanks. This custom is known as "Shuan Wawa" (Tethering a Child).

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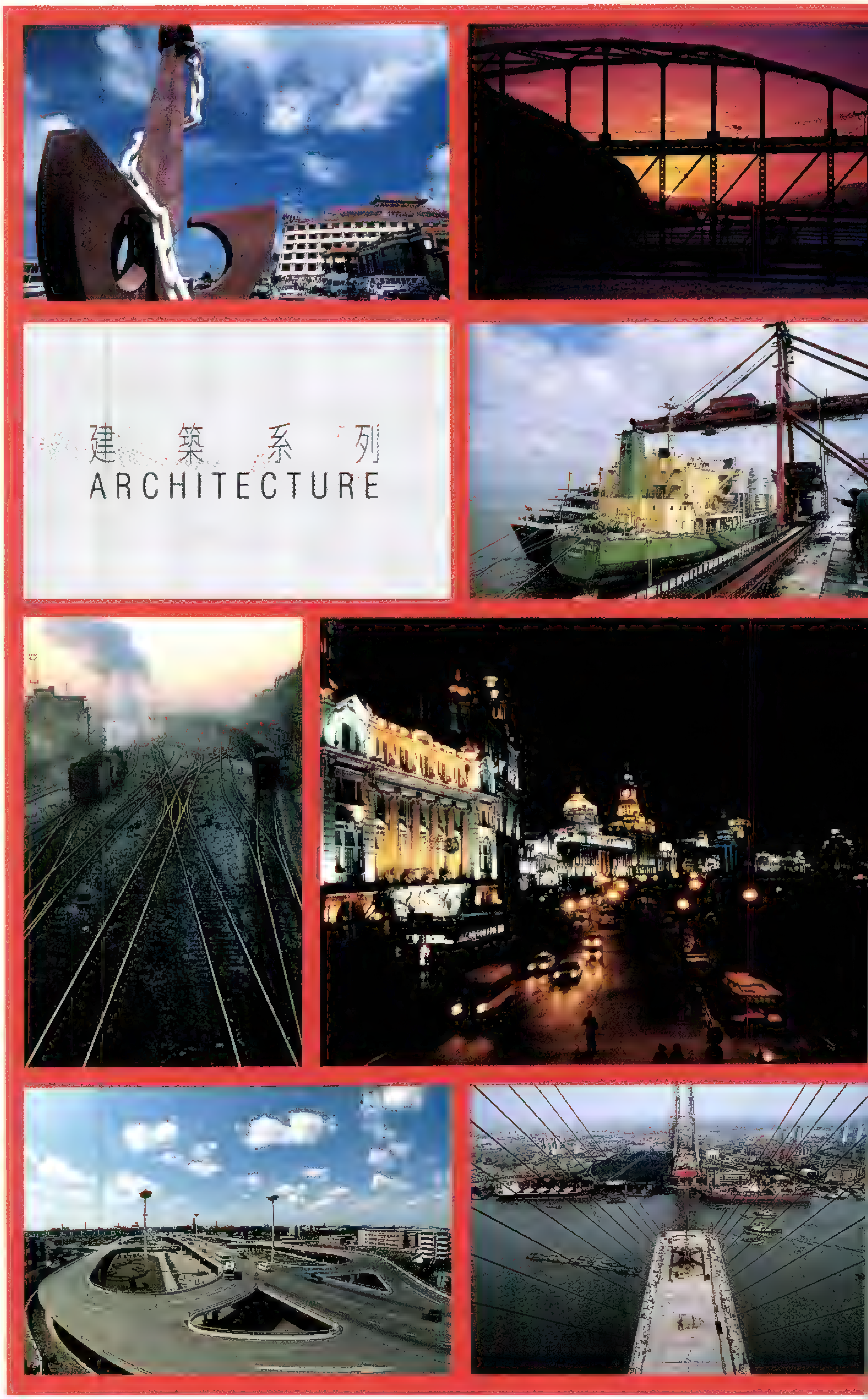

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Winter Activities in Heilongjiang and Jilin

An ice castle in Harbin (by Peng Zhenge)

Northeast China in winter is a wonderful place for visitors coming from warmer climates, and in recent years has become an especially popular destination for tourists from Southeast Asia. Tobogganing, ice surfing, skiing, hunting and simply enjoying the beauty of wintertime scenery are just a few of the attractions of this region.

HEILONGJIANG

Harbin

As the capital of Heilongjiang, Harbin is an excellent place to make one's base for exploring the province, and the city itself has a wide range of winter pastimes. The most well-known is the Ice and Snow Festival, which takes place starting January 5 of every year. During this time in Zhaolin Park local artisans create dozens of ice sculptures and ice lanterns, many of which are monumental feats of ingenuity and skill. Illuminated with brightly coloured lights during the evenings, the park attracts large numbers of visitors from all over China and abroad.

Besides seeing the ice sculptures, there are various other activities which one can enjoy. There are ice dancing performances and other spectacles on ice, and on the frozen Songhua River one can go tobogganing, play ice hockey or go ice surfing.

Acheng

Located just 60 kilometres southeast of Harbin is the city of Acheng, site of the Yuquan Hunting Ground. Covering a total area of 3,700 hectares, the hunting ground takes up 2,000 hectares, while the rest is given over to a recreational park where one can ski, ride horses, go tobogganing or practise target shooting.

The hunting ground is divided up into ten different sections and is populated by sika deer, roe deer, wild ducks, wild boar, squirrels and other animals. Hunting equipment can be rented at the ground, and any game that one catches can be cooked and eaten on the premises.

Taoshan

Rime in Jilin (by Huang Keqin)

Taoshan is home to one of the most important forest regions in China. Situated 238 kilometres northeast of Harbin, it is easily accessible by train. Here one can visit the Taoshan Hunting Ground, a forested area administered by the Taoshan Forestry Bureau. Covered with snow from late September to February each year, game here includes wild boar, red deer, roe deer, hare and pheasants. For members of your party not interested in hunting, there is also a beginner's ski slope fully equipped with a chair-lift and other facilities.

Langxiang

Langxiang is a town situated 307 kilometres northeast of Harbin in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains, just a bit further north than Taoshan. There are three types of tourist activities available here. If hunting is what you are after, there are 200 species of birds here and 50 species of wild animals; on Shihou (Stone Monkey) Hill one can ski and ride up the 600-metre funicular; or one can enjoy the natural scenery of the area from a small tourist train which runs for 95 kilometres through the snow-covered forests.

Qiqihar

Qiqihar is located northwest of Harbin near the border with Inner Mongolia. This area is a bird lover's paradise, as Qiqihar is home to the rare red-crowned crane, which can be seen in the Zhalong Nature Reserve (see our main article for details). When not bird-watching, you might want to take a visit to Longsha Park, situated in the western part of the city. Every winter in the park the town holds an Ice Scenery Festival, where ice sculptures made by local artists are on display.

JILIN

Jilin

The capital city of Jilin is located in the heart of the province along the Di'er (No. 2) Songhua River. The most famous event in Jilin in winter is the annual Rime Festival, held for one week starting from the 15th day of the first lunar month (this year falling around February 24). Rime is a natural phenomenon which occurs when warm currents cause water from the river to evaporate and form crystalline frost on the pine and willow trees. It is a beautiful and romantic sight, especially for people who have never been in such climates. Rime occurs about 30-40 times between mid-November and April, so if you cannot make it for the Rime Festival, there are plenty of other opportunities.

Another attraction in Jilin is the Ice Lantern Fair held in the city's Jiangnan Park, where one can view sculpted ice lanterns that extend for 1,600 metres. Or, for ski enthusiasts, just 20 kilometres from the city centre is the Songhua Lake Ski Resort, where one can watch high jumping, downhill racing and cross-country events. And, of course, there is a ski slope with a chair-lift and a slope for tobogganing.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS FOR VISITORS

Transportation

Dragonair has flights from Hong Kong to Harbin for HK$2520 (one-way), running every Monday and Wednesday according to demand. CAAC has daily flights from Guangzhou to Harbin for HK$2283 (also one-way) and from Shenzhen to Harbin every day but Tuesday for HK$2651. From Beijing, one can fly CAAC to Jilin on Wednesdays and Saturdays and to Harbin every day except Wednesdays and Fridays (no current pricing information available for these two flights).

For information on train schedules, please see pages 84-85.

Climate

Extremely cold, with temperatures in certain areas reaching -30°C. Visitors should bring plenty of warm clothes, scarves, hats, gloves, down jackets and moisturizing products for the lips, skin and face.

Costs

Not very high, but activities like skiing and hunting are normally not included in tour fees.

Time needed

Organized tours usually last about 15 days, but individual travellers can make their own arrangements.

Cold weather suggestions

- Make sure to bring sturdy shoes with good tread, as the ice and snow can be very slippery. Also try to bring shoes that are a bit loose, as you will need to wear extra pairs of socks.

- Be sure to have a good pair of sunglasses, since snow blindness is possible due to the glare of the sun on the ice and snow.

- Take care with your camera equipment, as the extremely cold temperatures can cause cameras to freeze up. Keep your camera in a warm place and never leave it exposed to the cold for too long.

A Tourist Guide to Wuzhi Mountain

TEXT BY LIU LANG

Located at an average height of 600 metres above sea level, the Wuzhi Mountain Range covers an area of about 13,000 hectares. The range traverses the counties of Qiongzhong, Lingshui and Baoting and the city of Tongshi. Its highest peak is at the juncture of Wuzhishan Town in Tongshi and Qiongzhong County. Wuzhi Mountain is formed by five towering peaks which run from southwest to northeast. The Second Peak, which rises 1,867 metres above sea level, is the highest of the five.

The Wuzhi Mountain Range is where the Changhua River, one of the three largest rivers on Hainan Island, has its source. The annual average temperature in this area is 22.4°C, giving it both cool, pleasant summers and warm winters. Tropical and subtropical flora and fauna are in great variety here, as it is the sole undeveloped tropical primeval forest on the island. This area is inhabited by the Li and Miao minorities, and is in fact the "birthplace" of the Li nationality.

How to Get There

At present the only entrance to Wuzhi Mountain is located at a place 187 kilometres from the city of Haikou. To reach this spot, take the central Haikou-Yulin Highway and then turn east onto the road leading to the mountain. For those coming from the east, turn onto the central route after passing Sanya City and travel for 110 kilometres to reach the entrance to the mountain (Sanya to Tongshi 85 km, Tongshi to Maoyang 25 km, and Maoyang to the entrance to the mountain 2 km). The distance from here to the Yabin Tourist Area at the foot of the First Peak is 33 kilometres (entrance to the mountain to Wuzhishan Town 30 km, from there to Yabin 3 km), or one hour's ride. The office of the Hainan Shuanghuan International Travel Service at the Tongshi Holiday Resort can arrange transport to the mountain. Regular buses run three times a day to the mountain, and are provided by the Tongshi Bus Station and a private transport service. In addition, other private transport services in Tongshi are available at any time of the day.

Food, Lodging and Transportation in the Wuzhi Mountain Area

Two years ago, the Hainan Shuanghuan Tourist Trade Corporation started construction of the Wuzhi Mountain Villa, a comprehensive tourist resort in the Yabin Tourism Development Area at the foot of Wuzhi Mountain. The proposed villa, with 20 bungalows, seven folk restaurants and other facilities such as karaoke, a folk dance hall, sauna and guide service, is scheduled to open during the Spring Festival holidays of 1994. In addition, two guest houses with 20 simple rooms run by the local government also provide lodging to tourists; guests can dine at the local restaurants nearby.

At present, there are four hotels open in Tongshi: Tongshi Holiday Resort, Tongshi Mountain Villa, Tongshi Tourist Hotel and Wuzhishan Hotel.

The 50-hectare Yabin Tourism Development Area features a beautiful maple grove, where tourists can wander at their leisure. Winding around this area is a stream with several pools, which are ideal places for swimming. A particular spot called Mother's Ravine has been a pilgrimage site since ancient times. On festive occasions pilgrims from both mountainous and coastal areas come here to burn incense and pay worship to the gods.

As the birthplace of Hainan's Li people, Wuzhi Mountain is virgin territory for tourists who want to explore the customs of the local people, while at the same time experiencing the thrill of mountain climbing. One can stay overnight at the mountain villa and climb the peak the following morning.

Located 680 metres above sea level, Yabin is about 1,200 metres from the peak of the mountain. For an ordinary climber it takes four hours for the ascent and three hours to descend. One must bring their own food and water as there are no facilities on the mountaintop. If the weather is good, tents are useful for camping atop the mountain overnight in order to watch the sunrise and sea of clouds the next morning.

All four seasons are suitable for a visit to Wuzhi Mountain. Although located in a zone with both tropical and subtropical climates, the temperature at the summit is rather low. A thin jacket is needed in summer and in winter a sweater is needed for the day and a padded coat for the night. Other necessities are mosquito repellent to prevent leeches, insects and mosquitoes, and a raincoat for the changeable climate on the mountain.

Tourist Services

The tourism industry in the Wuzhi Mountain Area is now in its initial stages, so it is still somewhat difficult for individual travellers to venture up the mountain. They are advised to be accompanied by a tour guide, and the best way to do this is through a local travel agency. One of these is the Hainan Shuanghuan International Travel Service, which specializes in arranging Wuzhi Mountain tours. Four other large travel agencies in Hainan are the Hainan China Travel Service, Hainan China International Travel Service, Hainan China Youth Travel Service and Hainan China Staff and Workers Travel Service, in addition to co-operative enterprises jointly run by the Tongshi International Tourist Company and the Shuanghuan International Travel Service.

Translated by K.V. Ku

Some New Sights Around Hainan Island

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN

Once considered by the Han Chinese to be a remote and miserable place of exile, Hainan Island today is fast becoming one of the country's most popular holiday destinations. While hotels and other facilities in some places are quite well developed, there are still vast areas where tourists seldom, if ever, venture, therefore Hainan has something to offer tourists of all descriptions: from those who prefer luxury accommodations to backpackers looking for excitement and adventure.

Many foreign tourists to Hainan tend to concentrate on only the well-known cities of Haikou and Sanya, as guidebooks have little information on the less-frequented destinations. Few people realize that besides its long sandy beaches and coconut groves, Hainan also boasts a number of scenic areas and mountains, at least six nature reserves, ancient pagodas and countless minority villages, where life goes on much as it has for centuries. Below we take a look at just a few of these attractions, and also offer the most up-to-date information on transportation around the island.

EASTERN HAINAN

Wanquan River Scenic Area

One of the most pleasant ways to enjoy nature surely must be from the vantage point of a boat as it gently floats downstream. In the Wanquan River Scenic Area in Qionghai County one can do just that. The Wanquan River has its source in Wuzhi Mountain and extends eastward for 162 kilometres through the Qiongzhong Li and Miao Autonomous County to Qionghai, from where it makes its way to the sea. The starting point for the river cruise is in a town called Jiaji in Qionghai County. In the upper reaches of the river there are dangerous shoals and swift currents, with lush forests and mountain peaks on either side. As one comes to the lower reaches the river widens and becomes more gentle, with coconut groves and small farming villages lining the banks of the river.

Transport There are 15 buses a day running between Haikou and Jiaji. From Wenchang there are also 10 scheduled buses going to and from Jiaji. The Qionghai County Travel Company has 15 tourist minivans every day going between Haikou and Jiaji. People interested in buying tickets for the river cruise should contact the Qionghai County Travel Company (Qionghai Xian Lüyou Gongsi).

Li girls from Wuzhi Mountain

A tea plantation in Tongshi

Dongshan Mountain

Known as Hainan Island's Number 1 Mountain, Dongshan is located two kilometres from the city of Wanning in the southeastern part of the island. Some 100 scenic spots have been identified on the mountain and include towering cliffs, dense forests, strangely-shaped peaks, deep caves and beautiful valleys. One of the most famous sites is a long, winding cave known as the 36 Caves. It is said that every time the spring rains come, a sound like that of a zither comes from inside the cave, and in the autumn when the rains are at their most torrential, the cave produces a sound like thunder.

In recent years the local government has restored an ancient temple here called Chaoyin Temple, which was built in memory of a Song-dynasty minister named Li Gang. The temple's green tiles and flying eaves are half-hidden by the misty forests, giving it a tranquil and mysterious atmosphere. In the forests of Dongshan Mountain is the Shanzhuang (Mountain Village) Guesthouse, whose guestrooms were built by laying stones carved out of the mountain, thus they are warm in winter and cool in summer. Here one can try some of the specialties of the mountain, such as Dongshan mutton, Hele crab and Zhegu (Partridge) tea, the latter said to be very efficacious for treating colds.

Transport There are dozens of scheduled buses every day from both Haikou and Jiaji (in Qionghai) to Wanning. From Wanning to Dongshan Mountain one can take a special tourist van provided by one of Dongshan's travel agencies, or one can take a public bus.

Xinglong Hot Springs and the Overseas Chinese Farm

Just south of Wanning is the town of Xinglong, home to the Xinglong Overseas Chinese Farm, where research is done on tropical agriculture. Located just three kilometres from the Xinglong bus station, the farm is a tropical botanical garden full of exotic plants such as jackfruit, passion fruit, breadfruit, mangosteen and durian trees. Also grown here are olives, coffee, rubber, chilli peppers and a variety of imported medicinal plants.

Situated inside the farm is the Xinglong Hot Springs Hotel, an excellent place to rest, recuperate and soak in therapeutic spring water. The hotel is located along the banks of the Taiyang (Sun) River and has a hot spring swimming pool, as well as a mineral water bathtub in each room. The spring water here has a large number of minerals said to have therapeutic effects on arthritis, problems of the spine, skin diseases and nervous disorders. The water temperature is between 40-80°C, and one has the choice of three different types of hot springs.

The Xinglong Overseas Chinese Farm was established in 1951, the earliest such farm in China. Overseas Chinese in the thousands who have returned from over 22 countries contribute their knowledge to the farm and the research underway here. Many of the staff speak good English and can help visitors arrange trips to the minority villages nearby.

Transport Buses go every day to Xinglong from Haikou, Jiaji and Wanning. One can also take special tourist vans offered by local tourist agencies.

CENTRAL HAINAN

Tongshi

Tongshi used to be the capital of the Hainan Li and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, but after Hainan was turned into a province it became Tongshi City. Surrounded by mountains and with sufficient rainfall and a pleasant climate, Tongshi is a small and congenial place to visit. The average yearly temperature is 22.4°C, and in all four seasons one can buy fresh tropical fruit like coconuts, lichees, jackfruit and mangoes. Tongshi is also a convenient place to see the customs of the local Li and Miao ethnic groups, as many cultural events take place here such as singing, dancing and music performances.

In Tongshi one can visit the Minority Museum, an ideal way to learn about the history and culture of the Li and Miao. Built in 1986, it has eight exhibition halls containing over 1,000 artefacts and pictures. There are several hotels in Tongshi, such as the Wuzhishan Guesthouse and the Shanzhuang (Mountain Village) Guesthouse.

Transport There are about 10 scheduled buses every day running to Tongshi from Haikou, Sanya and Nada Town in Danxian County.

Taiping Waterfall

Located about 10 kilometres from Tongshi on Taiping Mountain, Taiping Waterfall has only recently had any tourist facilities at all. The mountain is 800 metres at its highest point, and at the foot of the mountain is a holiday resort village with a natural spring water swimming pool. The guest bungalows are constructed in the style of the Li nationality thatched huts, and fit in beautifully with the surroundings. The waterfall nearby drops down in levels, following the twists and turns of the landscape and finally splashing into a clear pool below. There is a pavilion built from which one can look up and see the magnificent sight of the mist and spray of the fall. As it is still fairly unknown to tourists, the waterfall makes a wonderful and relaxing getaway, and also provides an opportunity to learn about the life style of the Li people and to try some of their special dishes.

Transport Regularly scheduled buses run between Taiping and Tongshi, and tourist vans are also available.

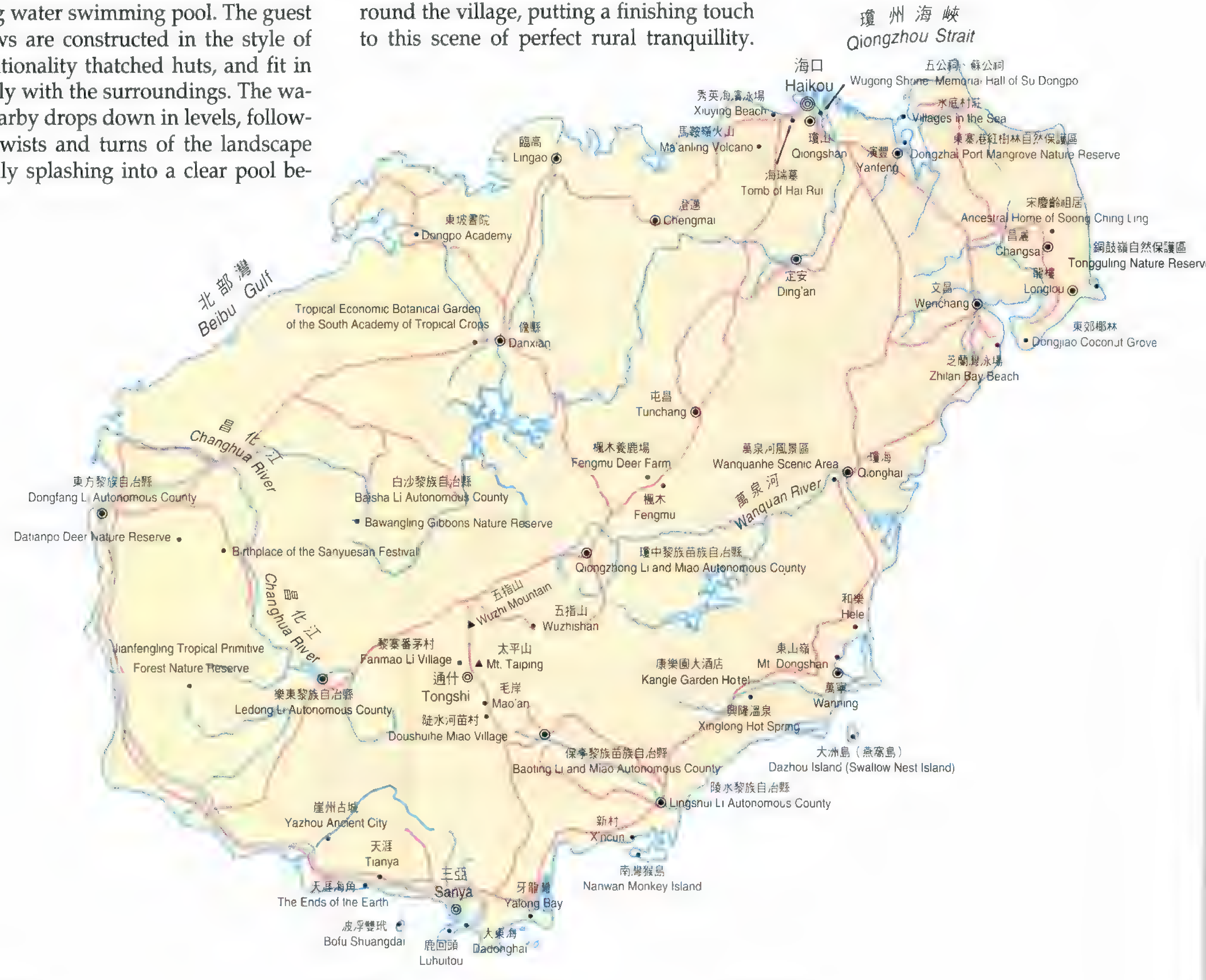
Minority Villages Around Tongshi

The Wuzhishan Scenic Area is one of the country's most important homes of the Li and Miao people. Here one can see not only beautiful scenery, but also study the language, customs, clothing, jewellery and life style of these minorities. Two of the most typical villages in this area are Mao'an, a Miao village, and the Fanmao Li stockaded village.

Mao'an is located 15 kilometres south of Tongshi along the highway. The Doushui River runs beside the village, and like Miao habitations anywhere in China, the houses are built to be near both mountains and water. Green forests and coconut groves surround the village, putting a finishing touch to this scene of perfect rural tranquillity. On festival days the Miao people here, as elsewhere, sing, dance, play the *lusheng* pipe and dress up in their best costumes and jewellery.

The Fanmao Li stockaded village is just two kilometres west of Tongshi, and once consisted only of 10 boat-shaped thatched huts, where people lived a simple existence. Now the inhabitants live in tiled houses, and the thatched huts are used as storage sheds. The most important festival for the Li people is the third day of the third lunar month, locally known as the Mountain Lover's Festival. Both men and women wear their best traditional costumes, drink mountain brandy, eat special festival foods and sing and dance until sunset. Only unmarried people may take part in this festival, which serves as an opportunity for young couples to get together and declare their love for each other.

If you would like to do further exploring of minority villages, not far from Tongshi are the Ledong Li Autonomous County and the Baoting Li and Miao Autonomous County, and just next to Mao'an is another Miao village called Doushuihe.


瓊州海峽
Qiongzhou Strait
海口
Haikou
五公祠、蘇公祠
Wugong Shrine Memorial Hall of Su Dongpo
秀英海濱泳場
Xiuying Beach
水底村莊
Villages in the Sea
馬鞍嶺火山
Ma'anling Volcano
瓊山
Qiongshan
東寨港紅樹林自然保護區
Dongzhai Port Mangrove Nature Reserve
臨高
Lingao
演豐
Yanfeng
海瑞墓
Tomb of Hai Rui
宋慶齡祖居
Ancestral Home of Soong Ching Ling
澄邁
Chengmai
東坡書院
Dongpo Academy
昌灑
Changsa
銅鼓嶺自然保護區
Tongguling Nature Reserv
定安
Ding'an
龍樓
Longlou
文昌
Wenchang
北部灣
Beibu Gulf
Tropical Economic Botanical Garden of the South Academy of Tropical Crops
儋縣
Danxian
東郊椰林
Dongjiao Coconut Grove
芝蘭灣泳場
Zhilan Bay Beach
屯昌
Tunchang
昌化江
Changhua River
楓木養鹿場
Fengmu Deer Farm
萬泉河風景區
Wanquanhe Scenic Area
瓊海
Qionghai
東方黎族自治縣
Dongfang Li Autonomous County
白沙黎族自治縣
Baisha Li Autonomous County
楓木
Fengmu
萬泉河
Wanquan River
Datianpo Deer Nature Reserve
Bawangling Gibbons Nature Reserve
Birthplace of the Sanyuesan Festival
瓊中黎族苗族自治縣
Qiongzhong Li and Miao Autonomous County
昌化江
Changhua River
五指山
Wuzhi Mountain
五指山
Wuzhishan
和樂
Hele
Jianfengling Tropical Primitive Forest Nature Reserve
番茅村
Fanmao Li Village
太平山
Mt. Taiping
康樂園大酒店
Kangle Garden Hotel
東山嶺
Mt Dongshan
通什
Tongshi
樂東黎族自治縣
Ledong Li Autonomous County
毛岸
Mao'an
萬寧
Wanning
陡水河苗村
Doushuihe Miao Village
興隆溫泉
Xinglong Hot Spring
保亭黎族苗族自治縣
Baoting Li and Miao Autonomous County
大洲島（燕窩島）
Dazhou Island (Swallow Nest Island)
陵水黎族自治縣
Lingshui Li Autonomous County
崖州古城
Yazhou Ancient City
新村
Xincun
天涯
Tianya
三亞
Sanya
南灣猴島
Nanwan Monkey Island
天涯海角
The Ends of the Earth
牙龍灣
Yalong Bay
皮浮雙玳
Bofu Shuangdai
鹿回頭
Luhuitou
大東海
Dadonghai

Transport Special tourist vans will take visitors to Mao'an and Fanmao from Tongshi.

WESTERN HAINAN

Danxian County

Those who really want to get off the beaten track should make a visit to the ancient town of Danxian in the northwestern part of the island. The town's history dates as far back as the year 110 B.C., when it was named Dan'er Prefecture. The name Dan'er originally meant "hanging earring", because in ancient times the Li people here used to wear long, hanging earrings. Much later in the Tang Dynasty it became Danzhou and it went through several other changes until recent decades, when it was simply named Danxian County.

The mountain and river scenery around Danxian is stunning, and the town has retained a strong ancient atmosphere. Things to see in Danxian include Dan'er Mountain and the Tropical Economic Botanical Garden. The garden is located in Nada about seven kilometres west of Danxian. This 30-hectare garden has over 1,000 rare tropical plants, and is part of the South China Academy of Tropical Crops.

Miao girls and a friend in Mao'an Village

Transport From Haikou to Danxian there are over 10 scheduled buses per day.

Animal Reserves in Western Hainan

The central part of western Hainan has two animal nature reserves that are well worth a visit. Both reserves are home to two extremely rare species of animal, the black-headed gibbon and the Hainan deer. At one time the population of black-headed gibbon on the island numbered 20,000, but today there are only some 100 living in the Bawangling Gibbons Nature Reserve, located south of the Baisha Li Autonomous County.

Hainan deer, which are found nowhere else in the world except Hainan, can be seen in the Datian Deer Nature Reserve in the Dongfang Li Autonomous County. This is a state-controlled area set up to protect Hainan deer, also known as thamin deer. Of China's 17 different species of deer, Hainan deer are the rarest and have high scientific and medical value. The deer has slender limbs, brown hair and white stripes on its back. It looks quite similar to the sika deer, but the male's antlers face front rather than back, like the sika's. Hainan deer love to frolick on the mountain slopes, and can often be seen grazing with herds of cow.

This protected zone was established in 1976 and covers 2,053 hectares of land. No hunting is allowed in order to allow the deer to build up their numbers. At present there are only about 80 individuals in the reserve. The park has built a five-storey watchtower where visitors can go to observe the deer in their natural habitat.

Transport From Haikou and Sanya there are regular buses every day to Basuo Town, from where one can take either a public bus or a special tourist van to the deer reserve.

Ancient Pagodas on Hainan

Niepan (Nirvana) Pagoda

Situated in the village of Rufu in Qiongshan County, this Buddhist stone pagoda dates back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and is regarded as a provincial protected monument. According to legend, a woman used the money she made by selling straw shoes to build this pagoda, thus it is also called the Straw Shoe Pagoda. This pagoda has an unusual square shape, and is just 2.6 metres high with four storeys. Twenty-five stone steps lead up to the first storey, where there is a sculpted stone Buddha in a niche.

Meilang Twin Pagodas

Located in Meilang Village in Chengmai County, just southwest of Haikou, these twin pagodas are Yuan-dynasty (1271-1368) Buddhist structures. Also called the Sister Pagodas, the first was originally seven storeys high, but today has only six. Hexagonal in shape, it was built of wood and more closely resembles a six-storey pavilion rather than a traditional pagoda. The second pagoda is square in shape and is seven storeys high. It is similar to, but more beautiful than, its sister. Each storey has Buddhas carved into the niches on the outside wall, and sculptures of lions, elephants, tigers, horses and unicorns decorate the base.

Miaozhen Pagoda

This pagoda was built in the Song Dynasty in Haikou's Wugong Temple. A mere 1.62 metres high, it is remarkable in that it was sculpted out of a single piece of stone. It has four sides and only three storeys, making it the smallest on the island.

Jukui Pagoda

This Ming-dynasty pagoda is located in the town of Tayang in Qionghai County, near the Wanquan River Scenic Area. Built in 1605 by a county official, the roof of the pagoda was later renovated during the Qing Dynasty. Twenty metres and seven storeys high, this octagonal structure has a stone base, stone balustrades and a stone terrace, as well as an archway in front with the name of the pagoda carved into it.

Doubing (Big Dipper) Pagoda

Situated in Wenchang County on Qixing (Seven Star) Hill, this pagoda gets its name from its 300-year history as a navigational tower for ships at sea. Made of brick, the pagoda is octagonal in shape, 20 metres high and consists of seven storeys. Although extremely elegant and beautiful outside, the inside is empty except for a staircase which leads to the top.

Jianlong (Seeing-the-Dragon) Pagoda

In Ding'an County south of Haikou, this pagoda was constructed during Emperor Qianlong's reign (1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty. It is a 20-metre, seven-storey brick structure with eight sides. The roof of the pagoda rises above the trees, and one can take the staircase to the top for a view of the south bank of the Nandu River.

Qingyun (Green Cloud) Pagoda

Green Cloud Pagoda is situated at the top of Shanwei Hill in Wanning County. Built in 1832 during the Qing Dynasty, it is an octagonal brick pagoda with seven storeys and is 20 metres high. The base of the pagoda is very large and was built on a group of rocks in the shape of a lotus. Visitors to neighbouring Dongshan Mountain who go to the top to see the sunrise have a wonderful view of this pagoda, shrouded in the morning mist.

Kuixing (God of Literature) Pagoda

This small stone pagoda is in Danxian County's town of Zhonghe, and was built in the late Qing Dynasty. It is octagonal in shape with unequal sides and a square base. A small archway and windows in the shape of a coin stand at the first storey, but the pagoda is empty inside. However, it is an excellent example of this style of pagoda and is still completely intact.

Wenbi (Writing Brush) Pagoda

Located in the eastern suburbs of Wenchang, this pagoda was constructed during Emperor Guangxu's reign (1875-1908) of the Qing Dynasty, making it one of the youngest pagodas on Hainan. It is octagonal in shape, has seven storeys and a large base, with each storey supported by a balustrade. From the top of the pagoda one can look out over Qinglan Harbour and a vast expanse of coconut groves.

Yingwang (Welcoming Prosperity) Pagoda

Located at the west gate of the Yazhou Ancient City near Sanya in the south, this pagoda was built during Emperor Xianfeng's reign (1851-1861) of the Qing Dynasty. It has eight sides and seven storeys and is made of brick with projecting eaves and a large base. Due to movements in the earth's crust the pagoda has started to tilt, therefore has been dubbed Hainan's Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Train Schedule Harbin — Heihe

Heihe 1 (Tourist)	Train No. / Station	Heihe 2 (Tourist)
18:25	**Harbin**	08:09
20:18	**Suihua**	06:33
23:53	**Bei'an**	02:57
—	**Wudalianchi**	—
01:25	**Longzhen**	01:33
—	**Chenqing**	—
04:24	**Sunwu**	22:36
—	**Jinhe**	—
07:23	**Heihe**	19:42

Train Schedule Beijing — Shenyang

53 Express	Train No. / Station	54 Express
22:07	**Beijing**	07:15
02:28	**Shanhaiguan**	02:52
07:34	**Shenyang North**	21:37

Flights to and from Jilin

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Jilin	3 6	09:20	11:00	CJ6152
Jilin — Beijing	3 6	18:05	19:45	CJ6151
Dalian — Jilin	4 7	12:30	15:20	CJ6676
Jilin — Dalian	4 7	09:05	11:55	CJ6675
Guangzhou — Jilin	3 6	11:45	17:00	CJ6352
Jilin — Guangzhou	3 6	11:50	17:25	CJ6351
Harbin — Jilin	4 7	07:30	08:30	CJ6675
Jilin — Harbin	4 7	15:55	16:55	CJ6676
Shanghai — Jilin	3 6	14:35	17:00	CJ6352
Jilin — Shanghai	3 6	11:50	14:30	CJ6351
Shenyang — Jilin	4 7	14:15	15:20	CJ6676
Jilin — Shenyang	4 7	09:05	10:10	CJ6675
Tianjin — Jilin	3 6	17:50	19:20	CA1631
Jilin — Tianjin	3 6	20:20	21:30	CA1632

(Valid Winter 1993 — Spring 1994)

Flights to and from Harbin

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Harbin	1	15:20	17:00	3U601
	2	11:50	13:30	GW611
	2	13:40	15:20	XO9601
	4	10:50	12:25	CJ6164
	4	14:45	16:15	CJ6166
	6	17:20	18:55	CJ6580
	6	11:15	12:45	WH2603
	7	11:30	13:00	SZ4643
	7	14:45	20:30	CJ6172
	7	19:30	21:05	CJ6962
	1 4	08:00	09:40	CA1601
	2 6	11:00	12:30	CA1603
Harbin — Beijing	1	17:50	19:25	3U602
	2	14:20	16:10	GW612
	2	16:40	18:30	XO9602
	4	08:20	10:00	CJ6163
	4	11:25	13:05	CJ6165
	6	08:05	09:45	CJ6579
	6	13:45	15:15	WH2604
	7	13:50	15:15	SZ4644
	7	07:50	13:55	CJ6171
	7	08:05	09:45	CJ6961
	1 4	10:30	12:10	CA1602
	2 6	13:15	14:45	CA1604
Changchun — Harbin	3 6	08:15	08:55	CJ6641
Harbin — Changchun	3 6	16:45	17:25	CJ6642
Guangzhou — Harbin	1 4	07:45	11:55	CZ3603
	2 5	17:05	21:05	CJ6364
	1 3 4 6	10:05	14:05	SZ4631
	1 3 4 6 7	15:10	18:50	CJ6362
Harbin — Guangzhou	1 4	12:55	17:20	CZ3604
	2 5	08:00	12:20	CJ6363
	1 3 4 6	14:45	18:40	SZ4632
	1 3 4 6 7	09:40	13:50	CJ6361
Shenzhen — Harbin	3	15:20	21:05	CJ6360
	1 5	14:50	20:20	CJ6372
	4 6 7	15:25	21:00	CJ6366
Harbin — Shenzhen	3	08:30	14:30	CJ6359
	1 5	08:20	14:00	CJ6371
	4 6 7	08:40	14:35	CJ6365
Xi'an — Harbin	6	08:55	12:45	WH2603
Harbin — Xi'an	6	13:45	18:05	WH2604

(Valid Winter 1993 — Spring 1994)

Charter Flights to and from Hong Kong

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Harbin — Hong Kong	1 3	12:05	16:30	CJ6009
Hong Kong — Harbin	1 3	17:15	21:15	CJ6010
Haikou — Hong Kong	5	10:55	11:55	KA380
	6	20:00	21:00	KA380
	1 2 3 4 7	21:15	22:15	KA380
Hong Kong — Haikou	5	09:00	10:05	KA381
	6	17:55	19:00	KA381
	1 2 3 4 7	19:10	20:15	KA381

(Valid Winter 1993 — Spring 1994)

Train Schedule
Jilin — Harbin

249 F.T.	Train No. Station	250 F.T.
09:20	**Jilin**	20:42
09:40	**Jilin North**	20:25
10:48	**Jishu**	19:24
11:20	**Shulan**	18:53
12:02	**Shanhetun**	18:10
12:36	**Wuchang**	17:40
13:15	**Lalin**	16:56
13:51	**Zhoujia**	16:25
14:47	**Harbin East**	—
15:00	**Binjiang**	—
15:05	**Harbin**	15:27

F.T.— Fast through passenger train

Ship Schedules to and from Hainan Province

Route (both ways)	Name of Ship	Frequency	Duration
Haikou — Hong Kong	Malan/Nanhu	3-4 times/month	18 hours
Sanya — Hong Kong	Malan	2 times/month	30 hours
Guangzhou — Haikou	Passenger Ship	Daily	24 hours
Guangzhou — Sanya	Passenger Ship	Weekly	40 hours
Haikou — Zhanjiang	Ship	Daily	6 hours
Haikou — Beihai	Passenger Ship	Daily	10 hours

Ticketing Counters:

- Haikou Harbour Passenger Ship Station, Haixiu Road Tel: 23617
- Sanya Harbour Administration Bureau (1st Floor)

Train Schedule
Beijing — Guangzhou

29 Express	Train No. Station	30 Express
22:30	**Beijing**	06:00
01:57	**Shijiazhuang**	02:44
06:56	**Zhengzhou**	21:40
10:53	**Xinyang**	17:40
14:21	**Wuchang**	13:59
19:27	**Changsha**	08:59
22:21	**Hengyang**	06:03
00:44	**Chenzhou**	03:40
03:20	**Shaoguan**	01:07
06:29	**Guangzhou**	21:46

Long-Distance Bus Service from Haikou

Route		Bus Model	Frequency	Duration
From	**To**			
Haikou	Guangzhou	Long-distance/Deluxe	Daily	18 hrs
	Shenzhen	Deluxe	Daily	24 hrs
	Nanning	Long-distance/Deluxe	Daily	12 hrs
	Zhanjiang	Long-distance	Daily	5 hrs
	Beihai	Long-distance	Daily	8 hrs

Ticketing Counters:

- Haikou Long-distance Bus Station, Haixiu Road Tel: 23617
- Overseas Chinese Mansion, Datong Road Tel: 24523

Average Climatic Conditions in Guizhou, Jilin, Heilongjiang and Hainan

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Jilin	Jilin	Temperature (℃)	-18.0	-14.3	-3.7	6.7	14.7	19.9	22.9	21.2	14.7	6.5	-3.9	-13.4
		Rainfall (mm)	5.4	6.2	12.5	31.5	53.3	104.3	194.9	133.9	68.0	42.2	15.6	6.4
	Tianchi Lake	Temperature (℃)	-23.2	-21.5	-16.6	-8.1	-0.9	4.0	8.6	8.1	1.5	-5.5	-13.6	-20.6
		Rainfall (mm)	12.7	14.5	36.0	73.2	106.5	186.7	346.2	307.3	138.6	51.2	41.5	18.3
Hainan	Haikou	Temperature (℃)	17.2	18.2	21.6	24.9	27.4	28.1	28.4	27.7	26.8	24.8	21.8	18.7
		Rainfall (mm)	23.6	30.4	52.0	92.8	182.6	241.6	206.7	239.5	302.8	172.4	97.6	38.0
Heilongjiang	Harbin	Temperature (℃)	-19.4	-15.3	-4.9	6.2	14.3	19.8	22.8	21.1	14.4	5.7	-5.8	-15.7
		Rainfall (mm)	3.9	4.7	11.7	22.0	36.0	75.8	169.2	100.4	70.7	27.3	6.9	5.1
	Qiqihar	Temperature (℃)	-19.5	-15.4	-5.3	5.4	14.1	20.2	22.8	20.9	14.0	4.7	-7.2	-16.5
		Rainfall (mm)	2.2	1.8	5.6	13.4	31.0	64.0	126.5	98.7	49.4	16.1	3.5	3.4
Guizhou	Kaili	Temperature (℃)	4.7	6.1	11.3	16.5	20.0	23.2	25.6	24.7	21.7	16.7	11.4	7.0
		Rainfall (mm)	26.6	30.1	49.0	140.5	208.0	206.7	162.2	139.2	84.3	99.6	61.3	27.0

NEWS

New Tourist Spot in Haikou

Hainan Province's capital city of Haikou has a new tourist attraction called Ancient Yazhou Town, modelled on a real ancient town of the same name near the southern city of Sanya. The town is built in the form of an imperial fortress and features gate towers, four corner towers and a temple dedicated to Guan Yu, the God of War, inside of which is a six-metre-tall statue of Guan Yu. Other facilities include two entertainment halls, a ballroom, a shopping centre and a restaurant.

Leshan's Great Buddha Festival

The city of Leshan in Sichuan Province, home to the world's largest stone Buddha, will be holding a Great Buddha Festival this year from May 18-25. The State Tourism Administration has organized the festival along with two other travel programmes as part of their '94 Chinese Tour of Cultural Relics and Historical Sites. The festival's aim is to inform visitors about Chinese Buddhism, and will include sightseeing, cultural events and trade fairs.

Confucius Cultural Palace in Qufu

The city of Qufu, the birthplace of Confucius in the south of Shandong Province, has recently opened a new cultural palace dedicated to the Chinese sage. The palace is the fourth major tourist attraction in Qufu devoted to Confucius, the other three being the Confucius Temple, the Confucius Mansion and Confucius' Tomb. The new palace has been dubbed Six Arts City, because Confucius and his 72 disciples were said to be experts in the six arts of etiquette, music, archery, chariot driving, writing and mathematics. Accordingly, inside the palace are six halls, one for each of the six arts. The modern building is dome-shaped and cost an estimated US$7.7 million to construct.

Cable Car Being Built on Lushan

A new cable car is now being built to carry tourists up Lushan Mountain in Jiangxi Province. The mountain is located in the north of the province near the city of Jiujiang and not far from the vast Poyang Lake. The new cable car will take visitors up 1,000 of the mountain's 1,474 metres, and will be completed by the peak tourist season next summer.

Lushan is a scenic spot most well-known for being the place where Chiang Kai-shek and other Kuomintang officials once had villas, and was also the site of several important meetings of the Chinese Communist Party. Currently, climbing to the top of Lushan takes two hours, but once the cable car is in service it will only take five minutes.

Shanghai, Tianjin Get New Banking Services

The Amercian banking corporation Chase Manhattan Bank has recently opened a branch office in Tianjin, their first in this city. The branch will provide the usual range of banking services, and will be the third Chase Manhattan Bank in China, the other two located in Beijing and Shanghai.

In other news, American Express has opened an office in Shanghai, also its third in China. Besides offering American Express cardholders emergency card replacement and other services, the office has also installed the city's only 24-hour cash dispenser to provide US dollar traveller cheques.

Sichuan's "Town of Longevity" Building Tourist Site

The county of Pengshan in Sichuan Province, long known for its exceptionally long-lived inhabitants, is building a new tourist attraction called "China Longevity Town". Located 60 kilometres south of the capital of Chengdu, Pengshan has a history of over 2,300 years and has been known as a "town of longevity" since the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.). The good natural environment is cited as the reason for the county's preponderance of elderly citizens, the proportion of which is 17 times more than the national average.

"China Longevity Town" will be comprised of ten large projects, including a mansion honouring the God of Longevity, a village where local centenarians will live, a tea market, a recreation centre and more. Some of the scenic sights have already been completed, however the entire project will not be open until the year 2000.

Shenyang Planning Eight Trigram City

The State has recently approved the construction of a theme park in Liaoning Province's city of Shenyang, to be based on the ancient Chinese theory of *bagua* or Eight Trigrams. This concept is introduced in the *Yi Jing (The Book of Changes)* and teaches that all things in the universe are created from *yin* and *yang*, or negative and positive energies. The theme park will be called the China City of Eight Trigrams and will include nine palaces, four main gates, eight camps and a maze in the shape of the Eight Trigrams. Completion of the project is scheduled for the end of 1994.

Sutras Unearthed in Gansu

A number of rare handwritten Buddhist scriptures containing records of chants and explanations of Buddhist doctrines were discovered recently on Zheyang Mountain in Gansu Province's Zhangxian County. Four of the scriptures have been identified as the only ones of their kind ever found in China. All of the pieces found were neatly written and very well-preserved with intricate decorations.

Help for Tourists in Shanghai

Tourists arriving at Shanghai's Hongqiao International Airport now have a new service available to help them plan their trip in China. The 24-hour tourism service is being offered to all individual travellers from outside of China and will help them with accommodations, sightseeing, travel arrangements and shopping.

Airline News

Helsinki-Beijing Flights Starting from February and running until May of this year, Finnair will be adding one extra flight per week from Helsinki, the capital of Finland, to Beijing. At present there are two weekly flights between the two capitals, however during the busy autumn and spring tourist seasons more flights are needed. Finnair began direct service to Beijing in 1988 and added a second weekly flight in April of 1992.

Guilin-Fuzhou Air Route Passengers can now fly direct on Xiamen Airlines between the cities of Guilin and Fuzhou, the former in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the latter the capital of Fujian Province. The new flight takes about one hour and 40 minutes and makes a round trip every Monday and Friday.

Tibetan Cities Get IDD

Residents of all seven of Tibet's prefectural cities can now make direct domestic and international telephone calls, thanks to huge investments in Tibet's telecommunications system over the past three years. Thirty county towns also have trial satellite stations in operation, and automatic exchange systems there are now being installed.

Lost Art Returned to Summer Palace

Ten exquisite windows with bronze latticework were recently returned to China by the American company the Starr Foundation, marking the first time a foreign corporation has ever made such a gesture. The windows were taken away from a pavilion by Western forces nearly 100 years ago, when they ransacked the imperial Summer Palace outside of Beijing. The American company bought the windows from a French collector for $515,000 and immediately donated them to China, after which they were installed back to their original locations in the pavilion.

Beijing Restoring Cultural Sites

Three ancient buildings in Beijing are being turned into museums as part of the city's plan to restore and preserve historical sites. One building is a temple several hundred years old that is being expanded and converted into a museum of stone carvings. Beijing's Cultural Relics Bureau has spent US$290,000 to build exhibition halls and crafts workshops inside the temple. The second site is a rockery which will be rebuilt in the Beijing Art Museum compound. Located in a former temple that was once an imperial palace during the Qing Dynasty, plans also include restoring the temple to its original appearance. Lastly, the Big Bell Temple in the north of the city is being turned into a museum of bells.

New Forest Park in Hunan

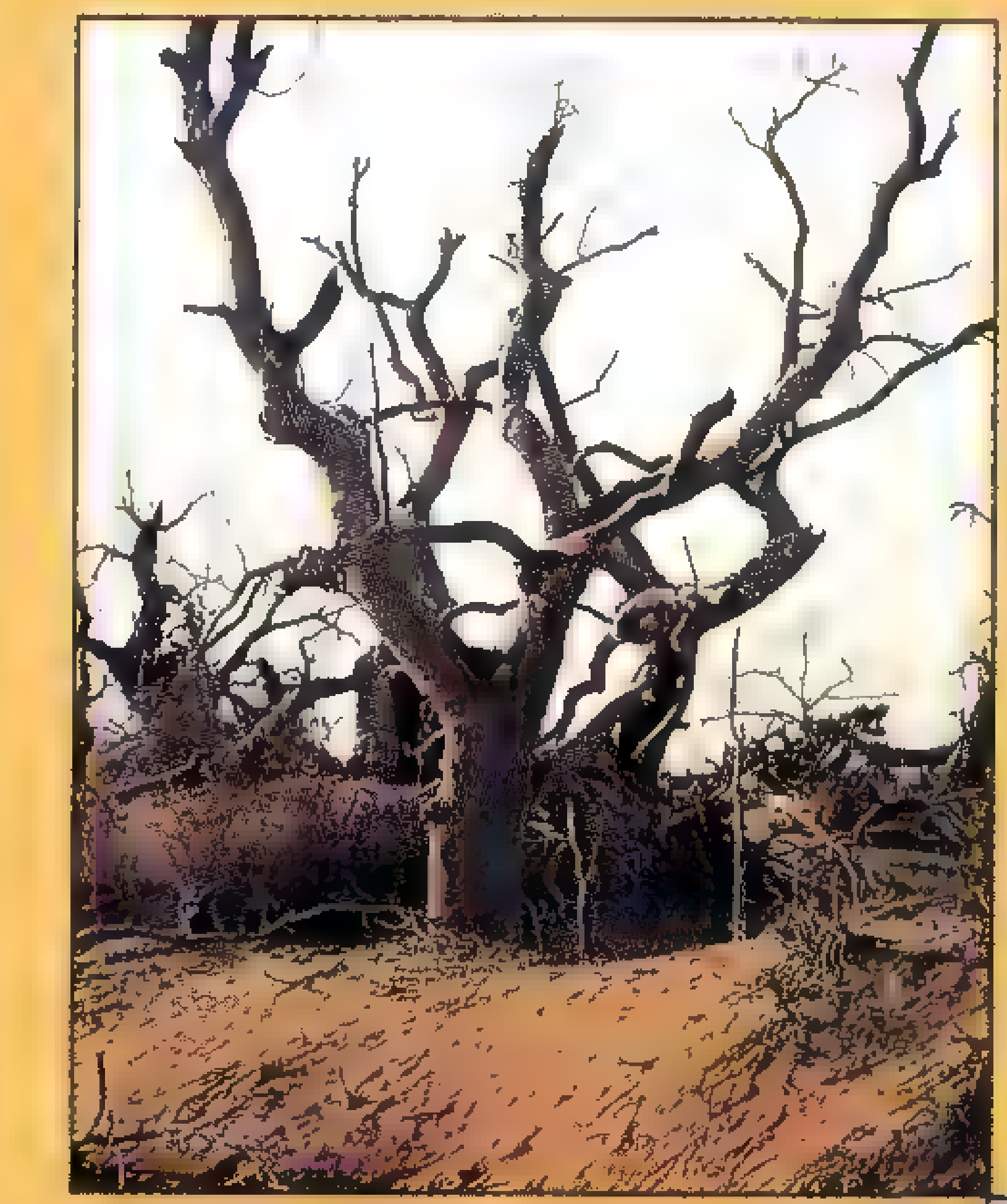
The Jiashan Temple Forest Park has recently opened in Hunan Province's Shimen County, located in the far north near the beautiful Wulingyuan Tourist Area. The new park covers an area of 1,800 hectares, most of which is thickly forested. Inside the park is the Jiashan Temple, a Buddhist temple over 1,000 years old that was put under provincial protection in 1990. Since January, Shimen County has put US$2.1 million into renovating the temple, building scenic sights and improving infrastructure.

NEXT ISSUE

• Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture: A Sanctuary of Tibetan Buddhism Outside Tibet

In our March issue, we will be introducing our readers to some of the traditional New Year activities practised in two ancient villages, and will take a look at a Tibetan region in Qinghai. We will also be taking you to Tianzhu Mountain in Anhui Province, and on a voyage of discovery in search of the lost civilization of Niya.

• A Traditional Lantern Festival in Baoji



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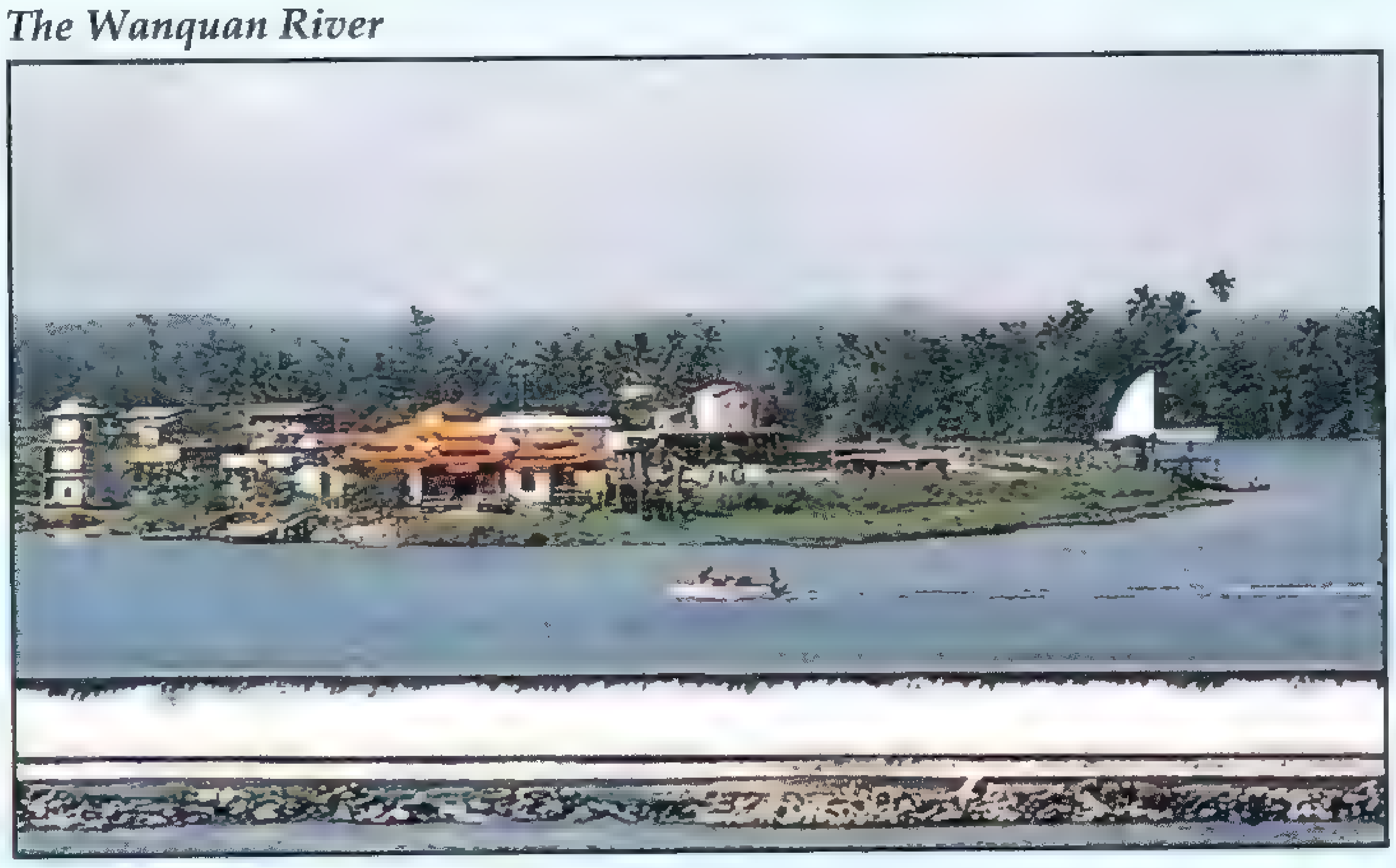
• Looking for Niya — An Ancient Civilization Buried in Sand

• The Pillar That Holds Up the Sky — A Visit to Tianzhu Mountain

• A Dragon Dance in the Zhu Family Village

The Wanquan River



Haikou: An Investor's Dream

Hainan Island is one of China's most rapidly developing and successful free trade zones. Since 1988, when it was made a province and China's largest SEZ, Hainan has opened itself to the outside world and enacted reforms that far outpace most other places in the country. The reasons for its success include abundant natural resources, an excellent living environment, emphasis on infrastructure and the establishment of exceptionally favourable investment policies. Destined to become an island paradise for both business people and tourists, the future of Hainan looks very bright.

Although development projects are either underway or planned all over the island, the most promising location is the capital port city of Haikou. In 1988 Haikou was a backwards and isolated city, covering an area of only 25 square kilometres. In just five years it has been transformed into a booming, modern city of 218 square kilometres and a population of around 800,000 inhabitants. In 1992, the city's industrial output saw an increase of three times over that of 1987. By May of 1993, 2,765 foreign companies and 5,147 domestic companies had registered to do business in Haikou, focusing on 20 different areas such as energy, transportation, light industry, construction, high-tech industry and tourism.

An Ideal Investment Climate

The city has set up ten economic development zones and has expended a great deal of effort in bringing Haikou's infrastructure up to standard. Between 1988 and 1992, the city spent US$172 million on urban construction and infrastructure, made possible in part by the island's plentiful construction materials such as granite, volcanic rock and sand.

An expressway linking Haikou to the southern city of Sanya is now underway, and highways already extend to all parts of the island. Haikou Airport is one of China's ten major airports, with 150 scheduled flights per week and 28 airlines. There are two ports in Haikou which have sea routes to all the coastal cities in China as well as to Thailand, Japan and Singapore. Accommodations in the city are also good, with 130 hotels which have a total of 4,300 rooms that cater to foreign tourists and business people. For all these reasons, Haikou has been rated among China's 40 best investment environments.

Haikou's biggest industry at present is the service industry, which revolves largely around tourism. This has brought rapid development to the real estate industry, which in turn has stimulated construction, traffic improvements and communications. The city has IDD connections to 182 countries and regions and boasts one of the highest rates of telephone coverage in the country.

One of the other most important industries is processing, which relies on the island's rich natural resources such as rubber, coffee, coconuts, other tropical fruits and a wide variety of seafood. Altogether the city's industries manufacture 400 different products for both export and domestic consumption. In addition, the island possesses an abundant supply of rock crystal, quartzite and sapphire. Other areas in Haikou which have seen rapid development are the textile, electronics, petrochemical, machinery and light industries.

There is no doubt that the city will continue to expand and develop, as the municipal government has set some very high goals for the future. By 1997 Haikou intends to have greatly increased its gross domestic product, domestic income, industrial output and agricultural output. To do this, it has entered a new phase of development and has announced that it intends to speed up the pace of reforms and construction, create an increasingly favourable international investment climate, offer more preferential policies, further develop its service industry and promote international trade.

Coconut groves on Hainan

Preferential Policies in Haikou

Preferential policies in Haikou, like elsewhere in China, have been specially designed to encourage investment, particularly from abroad. The city's laws and regulations all meet international standards, and recently an investment service centre was set up. Haikou offers some of the most revolutionary reforms in the country, making investment there as easy and attractive as possible. Below are some of the most important:

A famous scenic spot in Hainan — Tianya Haijiao *(The End of the Earth) in Sanya*

Haikou City

1. All former approval procedures for registering businesses have been abolished, now allowing investors to directly register their businesses quickly and easily.
2. Foreign investors are allowed to lease land for development for 70 years, with renewal possible after that.
3. No import/export taxes are levied in the Haikou Free Trade Zone, nor are import/export permits required. Free trade and a market economy are practised and encouraged in the zone.
4. Foreign investors can:
   - operate trade agencies;
   - do export and entrepôt trading;
   - act as agents for enterprises in the zone;
   - open foreign banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and shippping companies;
   - buy and sell foreign currency;
   - undertake commodity transfers in the zone; and
   - use foreign currency for quoting prices and settling accounts.

Haikou's Five Major Free Trade Zones

1. Haikou Bonded Zone

Only recently opened, this zone is located in the southwest part of Haikou and is expected to become an international economic and trade zone within five years. In its just two months of operation, 14 Sino-foreign joint ventures and 32 Chinese enterprises have set up offices there. Activities in the zone will focus on developing bonded warehouse facilities and engaging in commodity transfers, export-oriented processing, international trade, entrepôt and barter trade, transportation, packaging, finance and insurance.

In addition to the already existing preferential policies for the larger Haikou Free Trade Zone, such as no import/export licenses required, no customs duties and no industrial and commercial import taxes, the bonded zone offers some additional incentives:

- Sino-foreign joint ventures can engage in international trade;
- foreign trading firms in China or abroad can import raw materials, spare parts and products on behalf of companies in the bonded zone;
- all companies in the zone can keep all foreign exchange they earn in cash and can use it to settle accounts; and
- foreign investors can remit foreign exchange and wages to their home countries.

The only stipulation placed on foreign-funded enterprises is that their products must be exported, and Sino-foreign joint-ventures must also export a certain percentage of their products.

2. Jingpan Industrial Development Zone

The largest of Haikou's industrial development zones, Jingpan is located in the southwest part of the city and covers 1,650 hectares. Its infrastructure is also the most well-developed, with excellent water, electricity, transport, post and telecommunications facilities. At present 102 projects have been set up in the zone, producing electronics products, optical machinery and chemical products that are sold to over 50 countries and regions.

3. Gangao International Industrial Development Zone

Located on 320 hectares of land in the western suburbs of Haikou, the enterprises in this zone mainly focus on manufacturing products for export. There are currently 30 enterprises in operation making electronics equipment, shoes, diamond instruments and other high-tech products.

4. East Haidian Island Development Zone

This zone is situated on 650 hectares of land on Haidian Island, a place with beautiful natural scenery. The zone's first stage of development, which includes the creation of infrastructure, will soon be completed. So far one million square metres of commercial buildings and villas have been built, and another two million square metres are under construction. A seaside tourist area is also being built, which should pave the way for a prosperous tourism industry.

5. The Finance and Trade Zone

Located in the centre of Haikou, this zone covers 420 hectares and, as its name suggests, is intended largely for trade and financial activities. So far 130 overseas enterprises have invested some US$400 million in the zone, and 240 buildings have been constructed. It is hoped that the zone will become a modern international financial centre.

As one can see, the zones have been set up to focus on a certain area, so as to develop specialized services and industries in an environment particularly suited to their needs. Nearly every field imaginable is open to foreign investment and joint management, except for certain areas which the central government has banned from overseas involvement. Not only Haikou, but the entire island, is primed for a wide range of investment opportunities, so whatever your business is, Hainan Island just might be your company's next preferred destination.

Major Hotels in Heilongjiang and Hainan Provinces

Harbin, Heilongjiang

Beifang Mansions
北方大厦
120 Huayuan Street, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3643061
Opened 1959
380 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, beauty salon, grand theatre (1,000 seats)

Beixiu Hotel
北秀賓館
Songhuajiang Street, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang
Opened 1984
64 rooms
Located at the south of the railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, shopping gallery, beauty salon

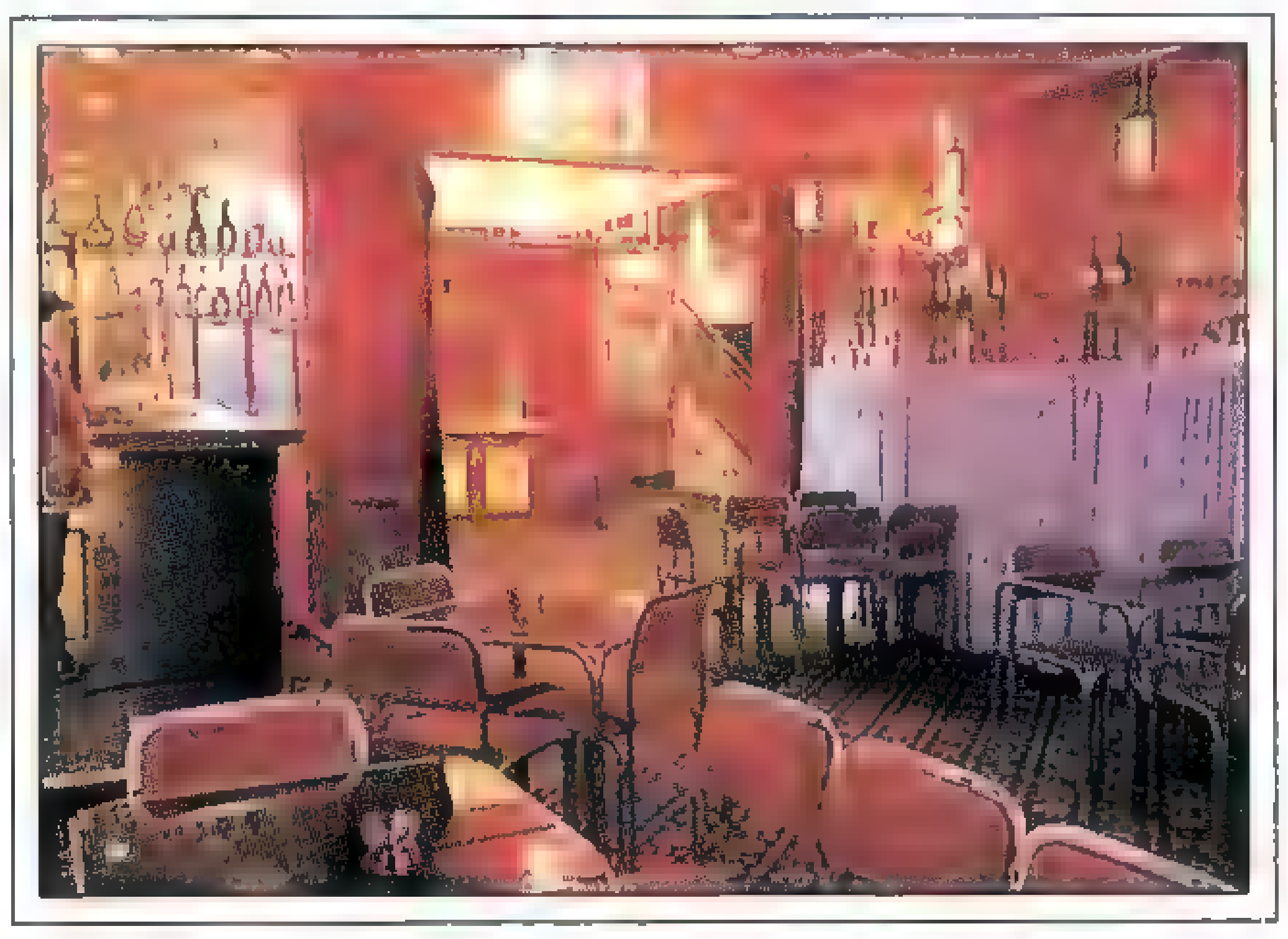
Beiyuan Hotel
[illegible]
76 Hongjun Street, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3638761, 3643146
Opened September 1980
264 rooms
Located opposite the railway station, 40 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, revolving restaurant, dancing hall, beauty salon, bar, shopping arcade

Dingxiang Mansions
[illegible]
180 Jingyang Street, Daowai, Harbin, Heilongjiang
Tel: 4686001
192 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Friendship Palace (West Building)
友誼宮　西楼
57 Youyi Road, Daowai, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150010
Tel: 4616146
92 rooms
Located 35 km from airport, 3.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, big and small conference rooms, grand theatre, dancing hall, shopping gallery

Garden Hotel
花園村賓館
10 Haiguan Street, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3630911, 3635782
117 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station

Harbin International Hotel
[illegible]
124 Dazhi Street, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001



Tel: 3641441 Telex: 87081 GUOLU CN
Fax: (0451) 325651
GM: Liu Yushan
Opened 1949
144 rooms Rates: US$45-400
Located in the city centre, 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥150; railway station, Rmb ¥10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, gym, bar, karaoke, massage

Harbin Modern Hotel
[illegible]
129 Zhongyang Avenue, Daoli, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150010
Tel: 4615846 Telex: 87075
Fax: 414997
GM: Liu Liankun
Opened 1913
144 rooms Rates: US$54/76/386
Located in the city centre, 39 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, beauty salon, conference room, massage, dancing hall, bar, coffee shop

Harbin Overseas Chinese Hotel
[illegible]
52 Hongjun Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3641266 Fax: 323429
GM: Hou Jun Lin
Opened 1956
387 rooms Rates: Standard US$16, suite US$73/96
Located 40 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥72
Facilities: Business centre, conference room, beauty salon, clinic, gym, billiard room, bar, coffee shop

Milky Way (Yinhe) Hotel
[illegible]
230 Zhongshan Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 2620707 Telex: 87023 HVMX CN
Fax: 228375
320 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Trade hall, theatre, gym, shop, bar

Peace Hotel
和平村賓館
109 Zhongshan Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 2620101
270 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, conference hall, dancing hall, massage, beauty salon

Swan Hotel
[illegible]
73 Zhongshan Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150036
Tel: 2620201 Telex: 87080 TIANE CN
Fax: (0451) 224895
Opened 1984
250 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference hall, bars, shopping arcade, beauty salon, karaoke, multi-function rooms, tennis court, dancing hall

Wangjiang Hotel
望江賓館
89 Hetu Street, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150076
Tel: 4606128
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, dancing hall, shopping arcade, karaoke

Qiqihar, Heilongjiang

Hecheng Hotel
鶴城賓館
4 Wenhua Street, Qiqihar, Heilongjiang 161005
Tel: 472669 Telex: 87124 QHRGL CN
Opened 1987
83 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, shopping arcade, disco, billiard room, beauty salon

Nenjiang Hotel
嫩江賓館
7 Fengheng Road, Longsha District, Qiqihar, Heilongjiang 161005
Tel: 472686
GM: Zheng Guisheng
Opened 15 February 1985
120 rooms Rates: US$30
Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥30
Facilities: Conference rooms, dancing hall, billiard room, beauty salon

Haikou. Hainan

Dong Hu Hotel
[illegible]
8 Haifu Road, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 772333
180 rooms and suites
Located 10 minutes from airport
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, meeting rooms, coffee shop, disco, karaoke, business centre, billiard room

Haikou Hotel
海口賓館
4 Haifu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 772221, 772266-8878, 773245
Telex: 490060 HTLHK CN Fax: 772232
GM: Wu Yuming
Opened 1987
200 rooms and suites Rates: Standard HK$468, suite HK$728
Located 1 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, conference halls, business centre, shopping arcade, swimming pool, gym, dance hall, beauty salon, karaoke

Haikou International Financial Centre
[illegible]
33 Datong Road, Haikou, Hainan 570001
Tel: 773088, 774099
Telex: 490058, 490059 HITFC CN
Fax: 772113, 774574
Opened February 1988
241 rooms and suites Rates: Standard HK$360/400/480, suite HK$660-1000 (all +10%)
Located in the commercial and cultural centre of

Haikou City, 10 minutes from airport
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, conference rooms, business centre, bowling, karaoke, bar, disco, swimming pool, billiard room, gym, beauty salon

Haikou Nanchang Hotel
海口南昌大厦
9 Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 222866 Fax: 225101
GM: Hou Xiao Zhou
Opened 1 May 1989
210 rooms and 89 suites Rates: FEC ¥ 160
Located 3 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥ 10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, ballroom, bar

Haikou Tower Hotel
海口泰華酒店
Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 772990, 773962 Telex: 490050 TOWER CN
Fax: 773966
GM: Raymond Ng
Opened 25 November 1986
240 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC ¥ 379.5/414, suite FEC ¥ 621/667
Located in the new financial centre of Haikou, 10 minutes from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, beauty salon, billiard room, bar, coffee shop, swimming pool, tennis courts, gym

Hainan Coconut International Hotel Ltd.
海南椰子樓大酒店有限公司
51 Haixiu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 777029, 777030 Fax: 768745
GM: Zhang Zhenhuan
Opened 30 August 1993
28 rooms and 18 suites Rates: Standard FEC ¥ 360, suite FEC ¥ 560-660
Located 3 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥ 10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, karaoke, dancing hall, business centre, beauty salon

Hainan Friendship Hotel
海南友誼大酒店
2 Datong Road, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 225566
96 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, dancing hall, shopping arcade, karaoke

Hainan Qiaofa Hot Spring Hotel
海南僑發溫泉賓館
Longkun Road, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 774999 Fax: 774670
73 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, dancing hall, beauty salon, massage, karaoke, swimming pool

Hainan Taoyuan Hotel
海南桃園酒店
12 Haixiu Avenue, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 772998 Telex: 490217 HQXHL CN
Fax: 72107
81 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, dancing room, coffee shop, beauty salon, bar, karaoke

Nantian Hotel
南天大酒店
3 Airport Road West, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 774888 Telex: 490053 NTHTL CN
GM: Long Deqian
191 rooms and suites Rates: Single FEC ¥ 124, double FEC ¥ 185, suite FEC ¥ 280
Located 1 km from airport, 2 km from the city centre
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, roadside snacks, sauna, health centre, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke

Overseas Chinese Hotel
華僑賓館
Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 772776, 773423 Telex: 490057 OCHTC CN
221 rooms and suites Rates: HK$547 up
Located 3 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, health centre, swimming pool, karaoke, dancing hall

Qiongyuan Hotel
瓊苑賓館
Niulongpai Road, Haifu Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 342245 Telex: 490061 QYHTL CN
140 rooms
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, meeting rooms, beauty salon, karaoke

Seaview International Hotel
望海國際大酒店
6 Haixiu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 773381, 773392 Telex: 490054 SIHHK CN
Fax: 773101
267 rooms and suites Rates: Standard Rmb ¥ 100-240, suite Rmb ¥ 225-420
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, business centre, shopping arcade, bar, coffee shop, karaoke

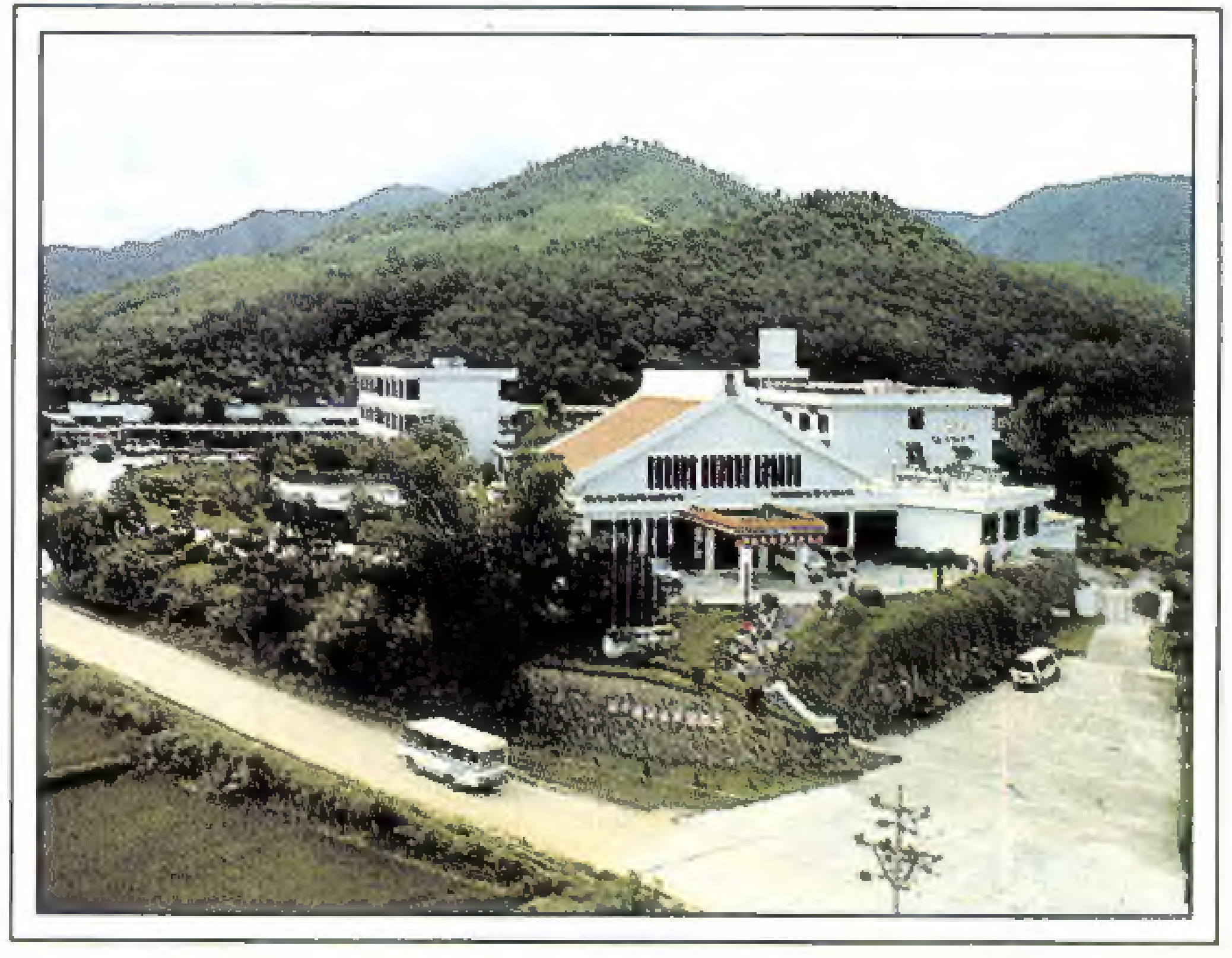
Wuzhishan Hotel
五指山大厦
6 Airport Road East, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 772012, 772712
GM: Lu Shiguang
Opened 1 June 1987
154 rooms Rates: US$20
Located in the city centre, 500 metres form railway station
Taxi fare to/from railway station, FEC ¥ 7
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet halls, conference rooms, coffee shop, sauna, massage

Xin Nan Yang Hotel
新南洋大酒店
66 Haixiu Avenue, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 778811, 779811 Fax: 778611
100 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, dancing hall, shopping arcade, business centre

Tongshi, Hainan

Tongshi Holiday Resort
通什度假村
Haiyu Road North, Tongshi, Hainan 572200
Tel: 622588, 622888
52 suites
Located at the city's northern suburb
Facilities: Restaurants, swimming pool, bar, karaoke

Tongshi Mountain Villa
通什旅遊山莊



Hebei Road West, suburban area, Tongshi, Hainan 572200
Tel: 223563, 223564
Located at the southern foot of Wuzhi Mountain
Facilities: Restaurant offering local delicacies, ballroom

Sanya, Hainan

Jinling Holiday Resort
金陵度假村
Luling Road, Sanya, Hainan 572021
Tel: 214088 Fax: 214088
GM: Huang Xiuguang
Opened 28 November 1989
147 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$50, suite US$90
Located 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet rooms, conference rooms, business centre, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic

Sanya Bay Hotel
三亞灣大酒店
Youyi Road, Sanya, Hainan 572000
Tel: 73001, 32082
141 rooms and suites
Facilities: Restaurants, coffee shop, dancing hall, shopping arcade, karaoke

Jiefang Road East, Sanya, Hainan 572000
Tel: 273068, 274041 Fax: 275049
GM: Xi Qinghui
220 rooms and suites Rates: US$45 up
Located 20 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 15-20
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, beauty salon, disco, bar

Xinya Hotel
新亞酒店
3 Xinjian Road, Sanya, Hainan 572000
60 rooms
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Restaurant, karaoke, bar, shopping arcade

Xinglong, Hainan

Hainan Xinglong Hot Spring Vacation Centre
海南興隆溫泉度假中心
Wanning Xinglong State Farm, Hainan
Tel: 582383
21 Spainish style buildings with 163 rooms
Located at eastern coast of Hainan Island
Facilities: Restaurant, dance hall, shopping street, coffee hall

Kangle Garden Hotel
康樂園大酒店

Xinglong Town, Wanning, Hainan
Tel: 343133
Spainish style villas and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, hot spring swimming pool, billiard rooms, tennis court, massage, health centre

Xinglong Hot Spring Hotel
興隆溫泉賓館
Xinglong Town, Wanning, Hainan
Tel: 582367, 582361
Opened 1959
110 rooms and suites
Facilities: Restaurant on water, shopping arcade, coffee shop, hot spring swimming pool, karaoke

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BEIJING HOTEL
北京 BEIJING

5.東方賓館
DONG FANG HOTEL
廣州 GUANGZHOU

9.金海灣大酒店
GOLDEN GULF HOTEL
汕頭 SHANTOU

2.錦江賓館
JIN JIANG HOTEL
成都 CHENGDU

6.榕湖飯店
RONGHU HOTEL
桂林 GUILIN

3.麗景大酒店
DALIAN REGENT HOTEL
大連 DALIAN

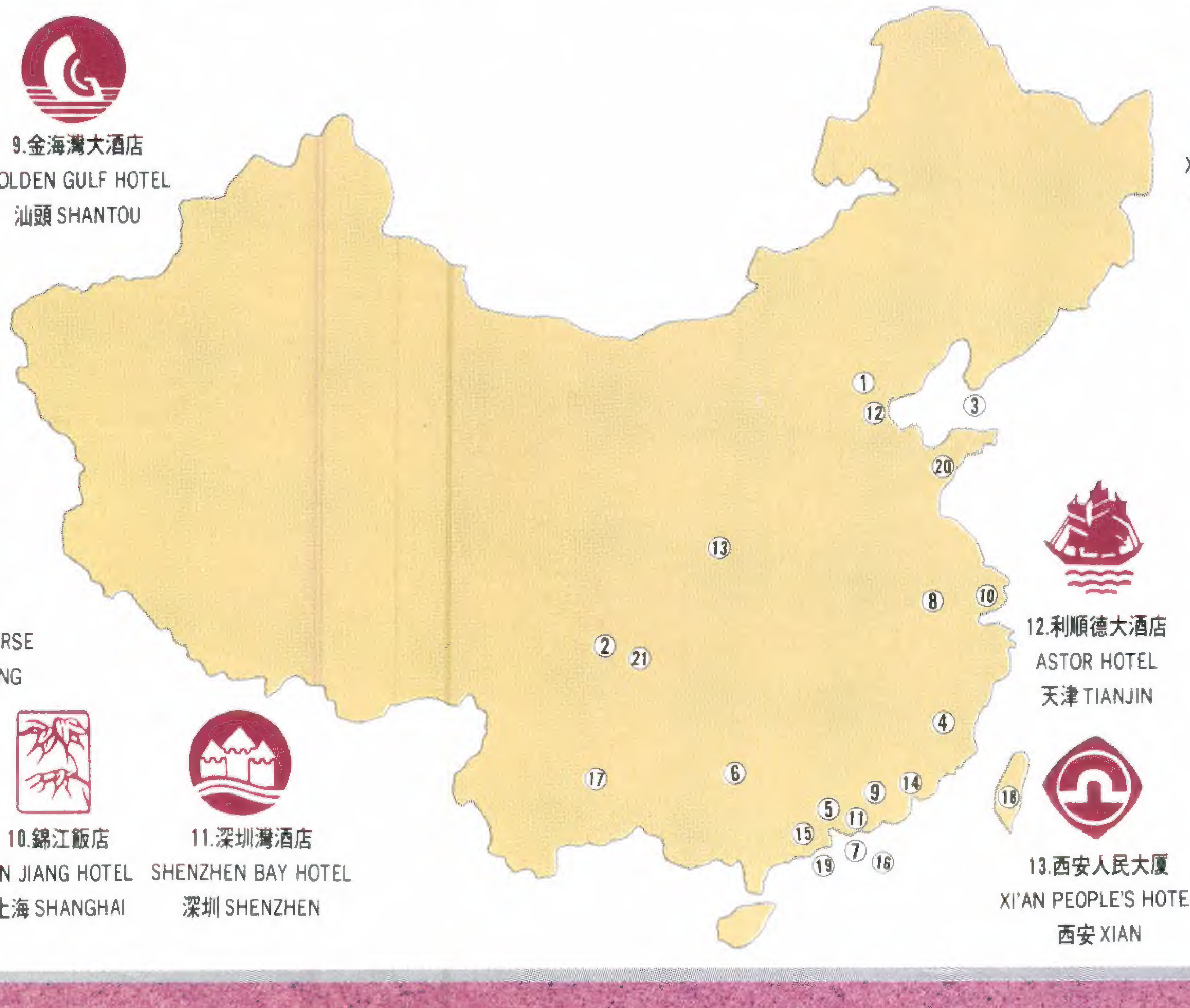
7.京港酒店
HOTEL CONCOURSE
香港 HONG KONG

4.福州西湖大酒店
FUZHOU LAKESIDE HOTEL
福州 FUZHOU

8.金陵飯店
JINLING HOTEL
南京 NANJING

10.錦江飯店
JIN JIANG HOTEL
上海 SHANGHAI

11.深圳灣酒店
SHENZHEN BAY HOTEL
深圳 SHENZHEN



14.悅華酒店
XIAMEN MANDARIN
廈門 HULI XIAMEN

18.豐群建設集團
FON CHING CONSTRUCTION GROUP
臺灣 TAIWAN

15.石景山旅遊中心
SHI CHING SHAN TOURIST CENTRE
珠海 ZHUHAI

19.總統酒店
HOTEL PRESIDENTE
澳門 MACAU

12.利順德大酒店
ASTOR HOTEL
天津 TIANJIN

16.港中旅
C T S
香港 HONG KONG

20.海天大酒店
HAITIAN HOTEL
青島 QINGDAO

13.西安人民大厦
XI'AN PEOPLE'S HOTEL
西安 XIAN

17.錦華大酒店
KING WORLD HOTEL
昆明 KUNMING

21.重慶賓館
CHONG QING GUEST HOUSE
重慶 CHONGQING

我們的航綫遍天下

巴黎、紐約、悉尼、開羅、沙迦、東京……我們的航綫通達世界27個國家和地區的34個城市。并有近40條航綫連接北京與國內其他主要城市。

我們的機群以波音大中型客機爲主，其中包括當今世界上最先進、最豪華、具有404個客座的波音747-400全客機和載貨量最大的波音747-200F全貨機。

一旦踏上中國國際航空公司的班機，吉祥的鳳凰鳥定會給您帶來旅途的愉快，事業的成功。

中国国际航空公司

AIR CHINA

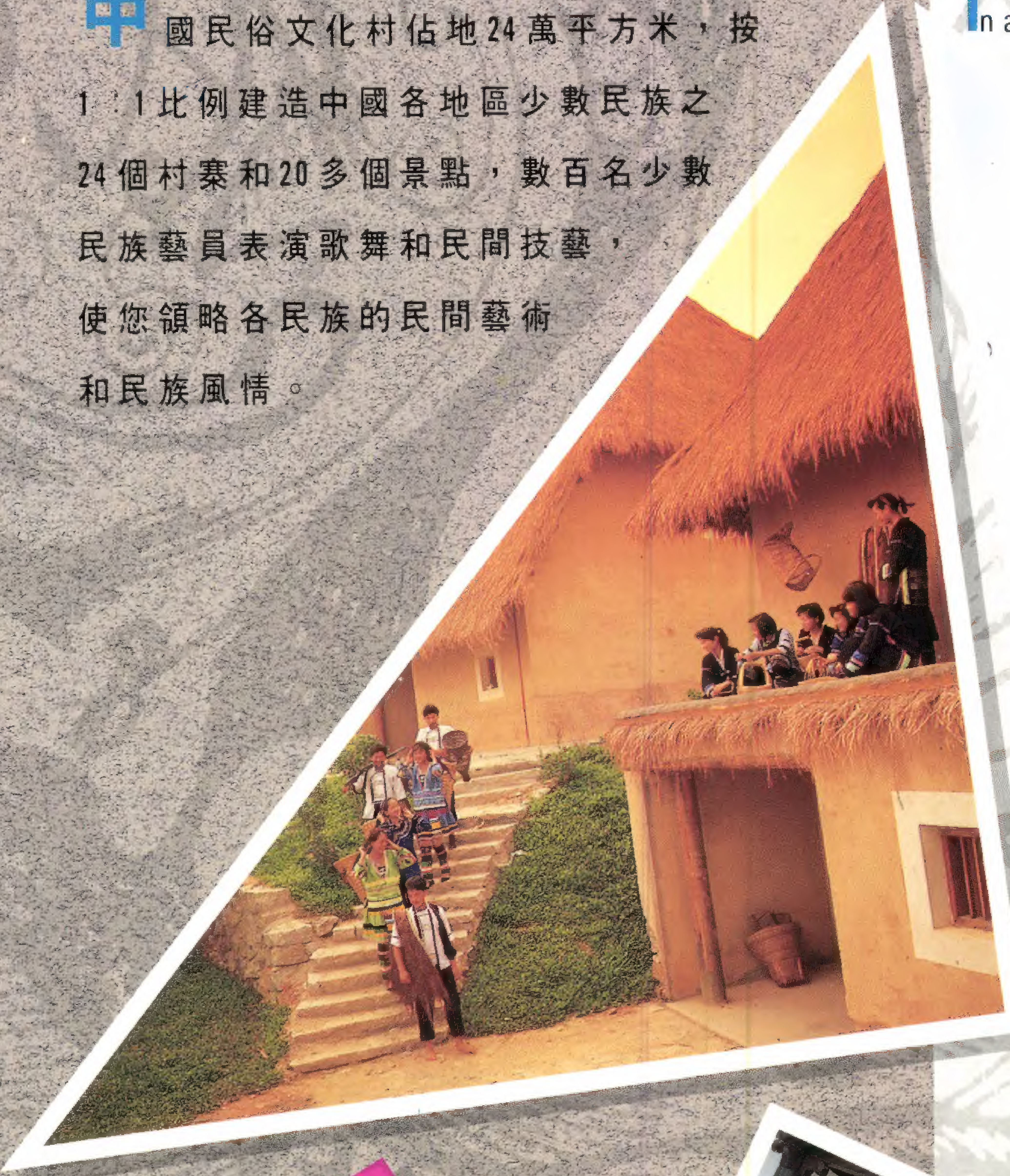
SHENZHEN

深圳

中国民俗文化村
China Folk Culture Villages

中國民俗文化村佔地24萬平方米，按1：1比例建造中國各地區少數民族之24個村寨和20多個景點，數百名少數民族藝員表演歌舞和民間技藝，使您領略各民族的民間藝術和民族風情。

In an area of 240,000 square metres, 24 villages of China's minority nationalities on the scale of 1:1 and more than 20 well-known scenic places are built in China Folk Culture Villages. Here you can enjoy the performance of folk song and dance, and folk acrobatics presented by a few hundred minority artists. You will also get some idea of folk arts, and customs and live of China's various minority nationalities.



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